

FULL
68 PAGES

AMAZING STORIES



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48

Sinister TALES 1½

A HERO OF A CENTURY AGO
INVADES THE PRESENT IN
A WEIRD MYSTERY!...

"I'VE GOT TO PROTECT
NETTIE!"

LAST THING I REMEMBER
... WOUNDED BY UNION
SOLDIERS. HOW DID I
... GET HERE?



HERE'S AN ODD AND BEWILDERING STORY OF A STRANGE TIME LAPSE... A STORY THAT MYSTIFIES AS IT THRILLS. EXPLAIN IT IF YOU CAN... THIS TALE CALLED...

"I'VE got to PROTECT NETTIE!"



1861... SOUTH CAROLINA. IT WAS STILL EARLY ENOUGH IN THE CIVIL WAR FOR A WEDDING TO BE A GAY SOCIAL OCCASION... PARTICULARLY THE WEDDING OF MAJOR RICHARD TRUESDALE TO LOVELY NETTIE FULLIS...



LEAVETAKING WAS HARD... NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN... TO EITHER OF US. COME WHAT MAY, I'LL PROTECT YOU, NETTIE... I SWEAR IT!



AND SO HE RODE AWAY FROM GREENLAWNS, HIS WEALTHY PLANTATION HOME... LEAVING BEHIND THE WOMAN HE LOVED...



1861--1862--1863--MAJOR TRUESPALE FOUGHT BRAVELY AS THE WAR TURNED AGAINST THE CONFEDERACY...



WE JUST GOT WORD THAT A YANK COLUMN IS PUSHING DOWN TOWARDS BEAUFORT.



THAT MEANS THEY'LL BE PASSING NEAR MY HOME, GREENLAWNS! MY WIFE NETTIE'S THERE WITH MY LITTLE DAUGHTER. I-- I'VE GOT TO PROTECT HER!

HOPE I CAN GET THERE BEFORE THE YANKEES...



HE MADE IT JUST IN TIME...

TRY FOR AUNT LAVINIA'S PLACE... IT'S OFF THE BEATEN TRACK AND IT'LL BE SAFE!

IF ONLY YOU WERE COMING WITH US...



I'VE GOT TO STAY BEHIND TO BURY OUR MONEY AND SILVER SO IT WILL BE SAFE. I FEEL THAT IF I'M PROTECTING IT-- I'M PROTECTING YOU, NETTIE!



THOSE YANKS ARE VERY NEAR... I'VE GOT TO GET THIS STUFF HIDDEN BEFORE THEY CAN GET HERE.







THERE USED TO BE TRUESDALES AROUND HERE. TRY TO FIND OUT IF THERE ARE ANY LEFT, SO PERHAPS WE CAN IDENTIFY THIS MAN BEFORE HE DIES.



THERE WAS JUST ONE LEFT--MRS. NETTIE FERNOW, AN IMPOVERISHED WIDOW--

AT FIRST I THOUGHT YOU WERE HERE TO SERVE EVICTION PAPERS ON ME. WE'RE BEING PUT OUT, THE CHILDREN AND ME. WE--WE CAN'T PAY THE RENT--

NOTHING LIKE THAT, MA'AM. THEY JUST WANT YOU UP AT THE HOSPITAL--THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD IDENTIFY SOME TELLA WHO WAS BROUGHT IN.



NO--I NEVER SAW HIM IN MY LIFE. WHAT MADE YOU THINK I MIGHT KNOW HIM?

HE WAS BROUGHT IN HERE OUT OF HIS HEAD, CLAIMING HE WAS MAJOR RICHARD TRUESDALE OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY. AND SINCE YOU'RE THE ONLY TRUESDALE FAMILY MEMBER LEFT



IN THESE PARTS, WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT KNOW WHO HE REALLY IS.

HE SURE MUST BE CRAZY. MAJOR RICHARD TRUESDALE WAS MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER--HE WAS KILLED BY THE YANKEES IN THE CIVIL WAR NEAR HERE. THAT WAS WHEN THE FAMILY WAS WEALTHY--BUT TIMES HAVE CHANGED, LORD--HELP ME!



THE PATIENT WAS IN THE DEEP COMA WHICH PRECEDES DEATH--NOTHING COULD HAVE GOTTEN HIM OUT OF IT. DOCTORS WOULD SWEAR. BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WOMAN'S VOICE THAT SEEMED TO PENETRATE--



NETTIE, DARLING--I--HEARD YOU THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE HERE. COME--CLOSER--

CAN'T SEEM TO--SEE OR HEAR SO WELL NOW--BUT I COULDN'T BE FOOLED ON--YOUR VOICE, YOUR FACE, SOMETHING--I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU--



ALL OUR VALUABLES...
OUR FORTUNE... BURIED
...TEN FEET SOUTH OF THE
OLD DRY WELL. SO HAPPY
I COULD TELL YOU IN TIME
...GOT TO... PROTECT YOU,
NETTIE. CAN'T SEE YOU...
SO WELL ANYMORE.
KISS ME... DARLING...

HE'S GOING,
POOR MAN.
GO AHEAD...
KISS HIM!



POOR, POOR MAN...
THINKING HE WAS
SOMEONE WHO DIED
A CENTURY AGO...

NO
PULSE...
HE'S
DEAD.



THESE DELUSIONS
ARE COMMON ENOUGH,
BUT HIS WAS A STRANGE
ONE... GOING BACK INTO
HISTORY...

DOCTOR... L-LOOK!
HIS FACE... HIS
BODY...

GOOD HEAVENS!
THERE'S NO BODY
THERE... JUST...
JUST AN ANCIENT
SKELETON!



THERE WAS
JUST ONE THING
LEFT TO DO
... CHECK ON
HIS INCREDIBLE
STORY. AND SO
MRS. NETTIE
FERNOW, GREAT-
GREAT-GRAND
DAUGHTER OF
MAJOR RICHARD
TRUESDALE,
WENT BACK TO
THE SITE OF THE
OLD PLANTATION
HOME... TO A
SPOT TEN FEET
SOUTH OF THE
OLD DRY WELL...

I THINK
WE'VE
HIT
SOMETHING...

YOU'RE A RICH
WOMAN NOW!
WHY ARE YOU
CRYING?

JUST TEARS OF JOY,
I GUESS... AND...
AND I KEEP REMEM-
BERING WHAT HE
SAID. HE SAID HE HAD
TO PROTECT NETTIE,
AND HE HAS... FOR
THE REST OF MY
LIFE!



The FACE in the MOONSTONE



WHY IT'S A DEFINITE **THREAT**, CHIEF! NOW THAT WE KNOW SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS ARE EXPERIMENTING WITH **BATS** AS POSSIBLE GERM-CARRIERS, FOR USE IN BACTERIAL WARFARE, WE'VE GOT TO CONDUCT OUR **OWN** RESEARCH WITH BATS...SO THAT **DEFENSIVE** MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN IF NECESSARY!

EXACTLY, VAN! NOW WHILE NO AMERICAN BATS ARE LARGE ENOUGH TO OFFER SUFFICIENT FLYING RANGE...THERE **MAY** BE A SOLUTION IN THIS FRENCH SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL!

SCIENCE MAY BE THE HIGHROAD OF CIVILIZATION...BUT SOMETIMES, UNEEXPECTEDLY, IT TAKES A STRANGE DETOUR INTO THE UNKNOWN! THEN THE OLD CONFIDENT ANSWERS SOUND HOLLOW...CONFRONTED BY TAUNTING MYSTERIES LIKE THE FACE IN THE MOONSTONE!

HMM...A NUMBER OF **IMMENSE** BATS HAVE BEEN REPORTED AROUND A HILLSIDE NEAR ANCIENT FECHAMP ABBEY...IN SOUTHERN FRANCE!

VAN, THIS IS A TOP-DRAWER PROJECT! I WANT YOU TO HOP A PLANE AND BRING BACK A FEW OF THOSE BATS!

THAT NIGHT...JUST A FEW HOURS BEFORE PLANE TIME...

I DON'T WANT TO PRY INTO THE REASON BEHIND YOUR TRIP, VAN, ...BUT I HAVE THE STRANGEST **UNEASINESS** ABOUT IT!

GOSH, LORNA...I'LL BE GONE ONLY A FEW DAYS! WHENEVER YOU FEEL LONELY, PET, JUST LOOK AT THAT **MOONSTONE** RING I GAVE YOU...AND REMEMBER IT MEANS WE'RE **ENGAGED**!

I HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT THE RING, VAN! AND SOMEHOW I FEEL YOU SHOULD TAKE IT WITH YOU...AS IF IT'S SOMETHING YOU'LL **NEED**!

LOOK, HONEY...I **KNOW** MOONSTONES WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE MAGICAL QUALITIES IN ANCIENT TIMES...BUT I'M A **SCIENTIST**!



THEN—AS A PAINT PEELING LAUGH RINGS OUT—LIKE THE CHIME OF DISTANT BELLS—

VAN! THERE'S A WOMAN'S FACE IN THE MOONSTONE—AN EVIL, JEERING FACE!

HA-HA-HA!

IT'S THE SATANICALLY BEAUTIFUL FEATURES FADE—

I'M SURE THAT WE'VE SOMEHOW GOTTEN A SIGN OF DANGER! PLEASE, VAN—DON'T MAKE THAT TRIP ALONE!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN OPTICAL ILLUSION, LORNA—BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO WORRY EVERY MINUTE I'M GONE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL COME WITH ME!

LATER—ABOARD A PARIS-BOUND CLIPPER—

I DIDN'T WANT TO ALARM LORNA—BUT I SAW THAT FACE IN THE MOONSTONE, TOO! I'M GLAD LORNA SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT—SHE'S NAPPING QUIETLY!

BUT CAN DREAMS REACH GROPINGLY OUT—TOWARD THE SINISTER REALITIES THAT LIE AHEAD? A ROCKY CRAG RISES LIKE A GRIM VISION IN LORNA'S SLEEPING MIND—THE LAUGHING WOMAN SEEMS TO BE WAITING, DRESSED IN A GLINGING ROBE THAT SHIMMERS IN THE MOONLIGHT—

—AND THE SHADOWS PLAYING AROUND HER ARE CAST BY MONSTROUS BATS, WHEELING IN THE INKY AIR!

HA-HA-HA! WIZARDS AND MEN OF FAITH HAVE TRIED TO TRAP ME—AND NOW—HA-HA—A SCIENTIST!

AS LORNA WAKES WITH A START—

OH-N! VAN—I SAW THAT WOMAN AGAIN IN A NIGHTMARE—WITH HIDEOUS-LOOKING BATS FLAPPING AROUND HER!

RELAX, PET! IT'S A PERFECTLY NATURAL DREAM—YOU WERE BOUND TO RETAIN THE IMAGE OF THE WOMAN'S FACE—AND TIE IT IN WITH THE FACT THAT WE'RE GOING TO FRANCE TO SEARCH FOR BATS!

WE'RE GOING AFTER BATS? BUT, VAN—I DIDN'T KNOW—UNTIL THIS VERY MOMENT!



NOW... THE VERY ATMOSPHERE SEEMS CHARGED WITH DOUBT AND DREAD!

NO USE PRETENDING, LORNA... WE ARE HEADING STRAIGHT INTO A SUPERNATURAL MYSTERY! MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA IF YOU WAITED IN PARIS... WHILE I SEE WHAT'S BEHIND IT!

WH FLETCHER, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FECHAMP ABBEY WITHOUT ME! IF THERE'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER WOMAN IN YOUR LIFE... EVEN A GHOSTLY ONE SURROUNDED BY BATS... I WANT TO BE ON HAND!



NEXT DAY... IN A CAR VAN HAS RENTED

THAT'S THE ABBEY, LORNA... AND UP THERE WE'LL FIND...

YEG... BATS! THAT'S THE VERY HILL I SAW IN MY DREAM!



OH, WELL... SUPPOSE WE DO WIND UP WITH SNOW-WHITE HAIR? LET'S GET STARTED!

BETTER LET ME CARRY THE FIELD KIT, LORNA... I'VE GOT DYNAMITE AND PERCUSSION CAPS AMONG MY EQUIPMENT!



A HALF HOUR LATER... NEAR THE STARK, BARREN SUMMIT...

HMM... THIS ROCK IS A TYPE KNOWN AS **FALDSPAR**... AND IT'S COMMONLY FOUND NEAR **CAVES!**

CAVES? THERE'S NOTHING UP AHEAD BUT A PILE OF BIG BOULDERS!



THAT'S JUST IT... I'VE GOT A HUNCH THOSE ROCKS ARE **BLOCKING** A CAVE... AND THAT THEY WERE **PLACED** THERE FOR THAT VERY PURPOSE! IF I'M RIGHT, A BLAST WILL OPEN UP A CAVE TO US!

THERE **DOES** SEEM TO BE A DRAFT OF COLD AIR FLOWING THROUGH THAT NARROW OPENING!



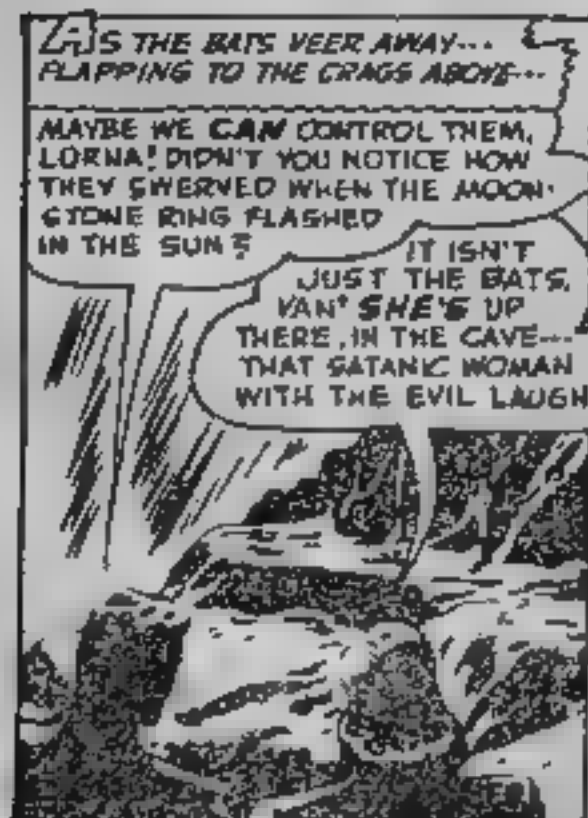
THEN... GOOD HEAVENS! THOSE ARE **EYES**... AND THAT MUFFLED LAUGH IS THE ONE I HEARD FROM THE MOONSTONE FACE! SHE'S INSIDE THE CAVE!



WH... WAIT... **WAIT!** DON'T EXPLODE THE DYNAMITE!

WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT? THERE'S **PLENTY** OF DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE BLAST! JUST HOLD YOUR EARS, BABY!







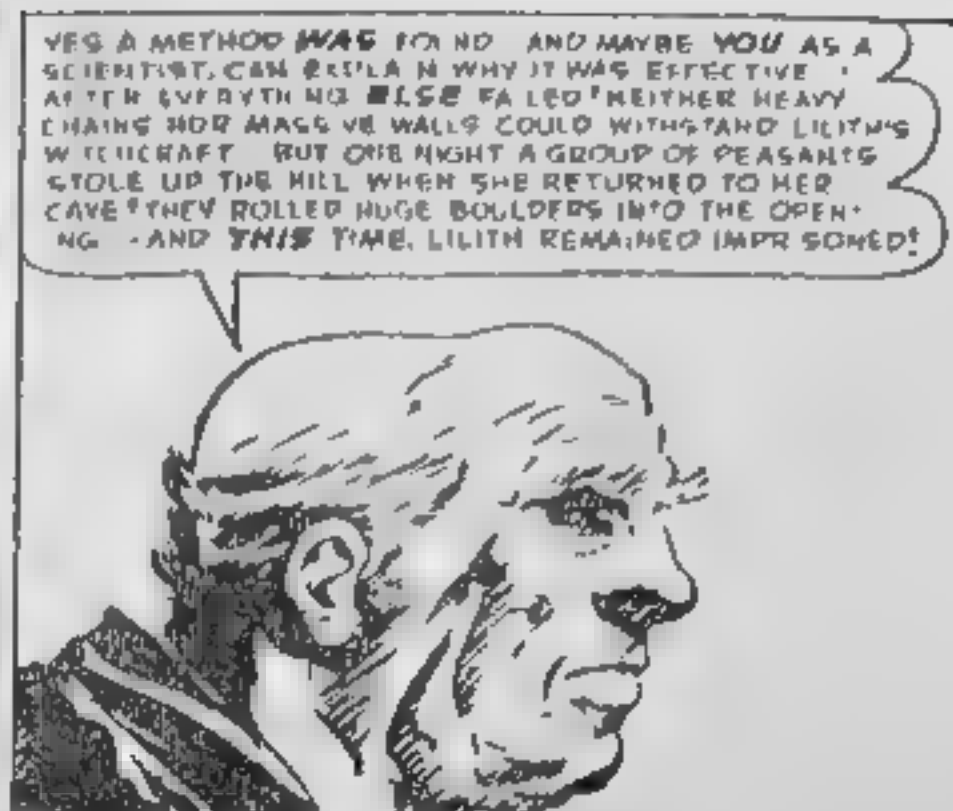
HALFWAY DOWN THE STONE VAN LOOKS BACK - THE WITCH STANDS IN FRONT OF THE YAWNING CAVE - HER RAGS FLAPPING IN THE SUNSET BRISLE - THE BAT FLAPPING AROUND HER





IF THE DEVIL EXISTS **SHE EXISTED!** HER BEAUTY WAS A SNAKE - A TRICK TO LURE MEN INTO EMBRACING HER! ONCE A VICTIM ACCEPTED HER CARESSES HE WAS LOST - HE BECAME A BAT, A CREATURE OF DARKNESS SLAYING THE **QUEEN OF DARKNESS... LILITH!**

LILITH! I DON'T RECALL ANY REPORTS ABOUT HER IN RECENT TIMES - SO SOMETHING MUST HAVE BROKEN THE SPELL!



YES A METHOD WAS FOUND - AND MAYBE YOU AS A SCIENTIST, CAN EXPLAIN WHY IT WAS EFFECTIVE - AFTER EVERYTHING ELSE FAILED! NEITHER HEAVY CHAINS NOR MASSIVE WALLS COULD WITHSTAND LILITH'S WITCHCRAFT - BUT ONE NIGHT A GROUP OF PEASANTS STOLE UP THE HILL WHEN SHE RETURNED TO HER CAVE! THEY ROLLED HUGE BOULDERS INTO THE OPENING - AND THIS TIME, LILITH REMAINED IMPRISONED!



UNTIL TODAY! I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT IT WOULD MEAN - BUT I BLASTED THE CAVE OPEN - AND THERE WAS A WITCH INSIDE!

THAT IS THE SHAPE LILITH ASSUMES BY DAY - BUT SHE WILL BE A BEAUTIFUL PHANTOM WHEN SHE STALKS TO-NIGHT! WE ARE CLOSE TO THE CAVE MY SON - YOU ARE YOUNG AND HANDSOME - SHE WILL COME TO YOU!



WAN - WE MUSTN'T STAY HERE!

I CAN'T LET LILITH TERRORIZE THE COUNTRY'S DE - AFTER I UNWITTINGLY RELEASED HER! BESIDES - I THINK I KNOW WHY LILITH COULDN'T ESCAPE FROM THE BLOCKED CAVE! THE WITCH HERSELF ISN'T REPELLED BY THE MOONSTONE - EXCEPT AT NIGHT, WHEN SHE TAKES ON HER ALLURING DISGUISE!



THAT WAS THE SECRET THE PEASANTS STUMBLED ON WHEN THEY WALLED UP THE CAVE - THEY USED **FELDSPAR** BOULDERS CONTAINING BITS OF **CRUDE MOONSTONE!** THAT GEM REPRESENTS THE MOON, WHICH HIDES A DARK PLANET IN THE NEARBY SKY - A PLANET KNOWN AS LILITH! WE'LL WAIT FOR LILITH - AND SEE IF SHE CAN'T BE CHECKED FOREVER!



TRUST... WITH A SINGLE CANDLE WANLY FINGERING THE DARKNESS.

I WANT YOU TO LIE DOWN AND PRETEND TO SLEEP, JORNA! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT WILL HAPPEN - BUT REMEMBER - DON'T GET PANICKY!

I'M SCARED NOW, WAN - BUT I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU!



[FAR BEYOND THE FORBIDDING CRAGS OF FECHAMP HILL, A ROOSTER CHALLENGES THE CREEPING MINUTES OF MIDNIGHT - AND IN THE COLD GREEN MOONLIGHT, A FIGURE SLIDES DOWN THE SLOPE!]



IT'S LILITH, RADIANT WITH UNHOLY BEAUTY - AND SHE SPEAKS PURRINGLY TO THE MONSTROUS BATS THAT CIRCLE AROUND HER!

HA-NA-HA! BEFORE THE MOON DIMS, I'LL HAVE ANOTHER SOUL - ANOTHER BAT!

A MOMENT LATER - LIKE THE SOUND OF DEWITCHING MUSIC

LILITH'S LAUGH - STRANGE THAT IT SHOULD SOUND SO BATHIC NO EVEN WHEN I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS!

THEN A FORM TAKES SHAPE - A FORM WITH EYES HALF CLOSED AND ARMS EXTENDED INVITINGLY!

SHE'S FASCINATING! MAYBE IT'S A MISTAKE TO BELIEVE THOSE ANCIENT LEGENDS - A CREATURE THAT LOVELY CAN'T BE A WITCH!

BUT AS VAN'S HAND TIGHTENS ON THE MOONSTONE RING -

HOLD ON OLD BOY - THAT MASK OF LOVELESSNESS HAS DOOMED HUNDREDS OF VICTIMS - DON'T LET IT TRAP YOU!

WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE, LILITH? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

ONLY TO KNOW I AM STILL BEAUTIFUL! ONLY TO HAVE YOU PROVE IT WITH YOUR ARMS!

A CRUEL, EXPECTANT LOOK FLICKERS OVER LILITH'S FACE AS VAN'S HAND RISES - BUT UNEXPECTEDLY

STOP! WHAT ARE YOU PLACING ON MY FOREHEAD - WHILE I WAIT FOR KISSES?

A CIRCLE, LILITH THE SIGN OF THE MOON MADE WITH A MOONSTONE!



STAGGERING LILITH CLUTCHES HER THROAT - SHRIEKING A CROAKING SUMMONS AS SHE UNDERGOES A HAIR-RAISING TRANSFORMATION!

SPIRITS... HELP ME! IT'S THE MAGIC SIGN - MADE WITH THE MAGIC STONE! I'M CHANGING - BECOMING A WITCH -

GO AHEAD, LILITH - CHANGE! BUT YOU CAN ONLY EGG AS A WITCH IN THE DAY-TIME - SO WATCH WHAT EFFECT THE MOONLIGHT WILL HAVE ON YOU!



THEN - WITH AN UNEARTHLY SRIEK -



THE MOON! YAAAGH... THE MOON!

AS LILITH'S FORM DISSOLVES FOREVER IN THE DRIFTING MOONBEAMS...

BUT THE BATS VAN! TURN THE RING TOWARD THEM AND LET'S GET RID OF THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS!

MAYBE WE WON'T HAVE TO... NOW THAT LILITH'S GONE! WATCH!



SLOWLY THE SPIRITS OF LILITH'S VICTIMS ARE RESTORED - AND SLOWLY, AS THEY GAZE AT VAN IN SILENT GRATITUDE -

THE SPELL IS BROKEN, LORNA! THEY'RE DISAPPEARING - AND THEY'LL NEVER ROAM THE NIGHT AGAIN, EITHER!



THEIR SPIRITS ARE FINALLY AT REST, MY SON... AND NOW WE CAN REST - KNOWING THE LONG, MISTY NIGHTS WILL BE PEACEFUL HEREAFTER!

WE'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING, CURE!



EARLY NEXT DAY...

I'D LIKE TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO THAT SWEET OLD CURE BEFORE WE LEAVE, VAN!

SURE WE WILL! BUT FIRST LET'S MAKE A FINAL CHECK-UP ON LILITH'S CAVE! THE SUN'S READY TO BREAK THROUGH THIS MIST - SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING SPOOKY UP THERE!



IT'S VAN AND LORNA ENTER THE CAVE -

VAN... THERE'S SOMETHING IN HERE!

YEP BATS! THEY'RE PRETTY SMALL, MIBBINS COMPARED TO THE THINGS THAT FLAPPED AROUND LILITH - BUT SOMETHING THIS SIZE IS EXACTLY WHAT I CAME AFTER!



MINUTES LATER - AS AMBER SUNLIGHT FLOODS FECHAMP...

THIS IS THE FIRST CHANCE WE'VE REALLY HAD TO SEE THE ABBEY, VAN - AND IT'S NOTHING BUT A RUIN!

LISTEN TO THIS! - TO THE MEMORY... OF ANTOINE DE POLIGNY... THE LAST CURE... OF THIS ABBEY - DIED 1421! THE LAST CURE! HE WAITED CENTURIES TO MAKE SURE LILITH'S VICTIMS WOULD BE SAVED... BUT HIS LONG WATCH CAME TO AN END, LORNA... LAST NIGHT!



BACK IN WASHINGTON...

SINCE WE'RE WORKING WITH BATS, VAN, I FEEL BETTER ABOUT THEM THAN MOST PEOPLE - BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH GHOSTS AND WITCHES!

JUST A MEDIEVAL SUPERSTITION CHIEF - ONE THAT PROBABLY GOES BACK AS FAR AS 1421!



IN THAT SPLIT SECOND, RHODA DAVIS MADE A DECISION THAT WAS TO SAVE HER FROM A STRANGE, UNHAPPY FATE! HER NARROW ESCAPE, HOWEVER, STILL LED HER TO...

RAVALO ^{the} MYSTERIOUS!





RHODA, WITH AS MUCH INTEREST IN NORMAN AS IN THE JOB, WOULD'VE FOLLOWED HIM TO THE PARLOR CAR.



SO RHODA DAVIS WOULD'VE FORSAKEN HER VACATION, TO BECOME PART OF RAVALO'S ACT! SHE'D HAVE BEEN THRILLED AT THE APPLAUSE OF THE AUDIENCE...



BUT HER HAPPIEST MOMENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN SPENT WITH NORMAN...



RAVALO WOULD'VE DECLARED HIS FEELINGS TOWARD RHODA...

WE CAN GO FAR TOGETHER! WE'LL TOUR EUROPE ON OUR HONEYMOON! OURS WILL BE THE GREATEST MAGIC ACT IN THE WORLD!

NO! I COULDN'T DO THAT, RAVALO. I DON'T LOVE YOU! NORMAN AND I...



SO YOU'VE FALLEN FOR THAT FLYING FROG? I'LL GET RID OF HIM FOR YOU! THEN PERHAPS YOU'LL HAVE TIME FOR ME!



RAVALO WOULD'VE BEEN UNWILLING TO LOSE RHODA, SO HE'D HAVE HELPED NORMAN BOYD! BUT CONSTANTLY HE'D HAVE USED MAGIC TO KEEP THEM APART...

IF DON'T HATE RAVALO, I'LL SEE FARMER BOYD FOR US FROM SEEING LA WINTERED HIS JID THE YOU'RE!



RAVALO WOULD'VE GESTURED! NORMAN WOULD'VE RISEN FROM THE FLOOR AT ONCE...

THERE, RHODA... NOW YOU SEE HE IS NOTHING, AND I'M EVERYTHING! HE'S BUT A HELPLESS PAWN!



YOU'RE CONTEMPTIBLE, RAVALO! I DESPISE YOU!

RAVALO WOULD'VE CONSTANTLY USED HIS FANTASTIC POWERS TO SEPARATE THE UNHAPPY PAIR...

LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE, NORMAN! IT'S NO USE, DEAR! RAVALO WILL FOLLOW US WHEREVER WE GO! WE'LL FIND A WAY SOMEHOW!



THEN, ONE EVENING, BEFORE SHOWTIME, RHODA AND NORMAN WOULD'VE MADE THEIR PLANS...

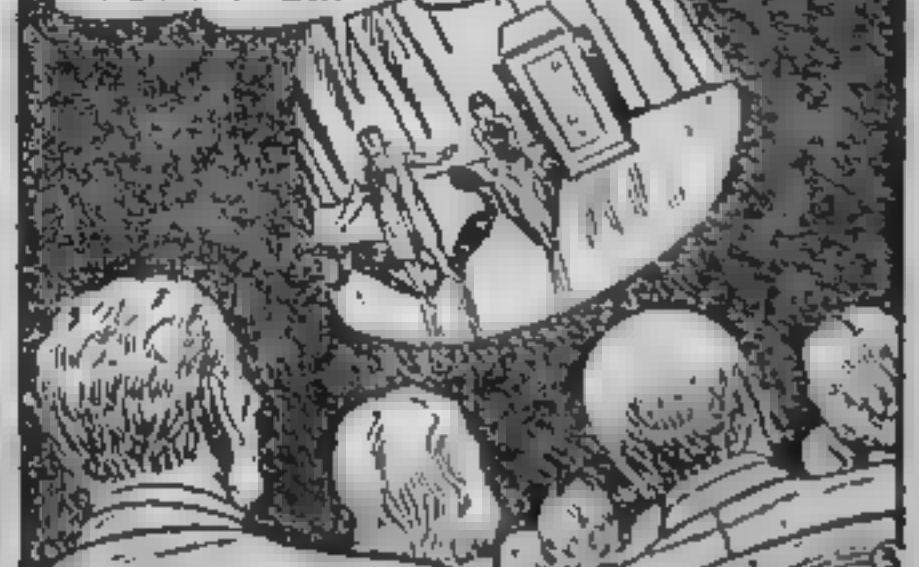
YOU KNOW HOW THE CABINET WORKS, NORMAN! CONCEAL YOURSELF IN IT NOW! WHEN IT COMES TIME FOR ME TO ENTER AND VANISH, WE'LL LEAVE TOGETHER!



I'VE GOTTEN A MARRIAGE LICENSE! WE'LL GOAT ONCE TO A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE! WE'LL BE MARRIED BEFORE RAVALO CAN CATCH UP WITH US!

AND LATER, RHODA WOULD'VE TREMBLED WITH EXCITEMENT AS THE IMPORTANT MOMENT CAME...

YOU HAVE SEEN THAT THE CABINET IS SOLID... NO HIDDEN DOORS, NO SECRET PANELS! WATCH CLOSELY, AS I CLOSE THE DOOR ON MISS DAVIS...



RAVALO WOULD'VE TAPPED THE CLOSED CABINET AND MUTTERED SOME MUMBO JUMBO. THEN HE'D HAVE OPENED THE DOOR AND RHODA WOULD HAVE VANISHED!

RHODA WOULD'VE VANISHED BACKSTAGE! SHE'D HAVE CHANGED RASTLY FROM HER COSTUME AND HAVE FOUND NORMAN WAITING FOR HER AT THE STAGE ENTRANCE.



SHE AND NORMAN WOULD'VE SOON BEEN STANDING BEFORE THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE! THEN, WITH LOVE IN HER EYES, RHODA WOULD'VE GLANCED AT NORMAN, BUT HE'D NOT HAVE BEEN THERE!

YOU SEE, THERE IS NO SUCH PERSON AS NORMAN BOYD! I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU AT GRAND CENTRAL STATION. NORMAN WAS MERELY A CREATION OF MY MAGIC WHICH I USED TO LURE YOU INTO MY ACT!

BUT ALL THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN TO RHODA DAVIS, FOR SHE DIDN'T LET NORMAN BOYD CARRY HER LUGGAGE.

RAVALO! B-BUT I CAME HERE, BASF, WITH NORMAN! WHAT'VE YOU DONE WITH HIM!

YOU EVIL MAN... HOW I HATE YOU! I'LL ALWAYS LOVE NORMAN IN MY MEMORY, EVEN THOUGH HE DOESN'T EXIST! YOU'VE BROKEN MY HEART!

OH, WELL, PERHAPS WE'LL MEET ON THE TRAIN!



AND A MOMENT LATER, ANOTHER MASCULINE VOICE BROUGHT RHODA TO A SUDDEN STOP.

THIS TIME RHODA ALLOWED THE GENTLEMAN TO CARRY HER SUITCASES.



IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME, MISS, YOUR LUGGAGE LOOKS VERY HEAVY!

WELL, YES, IT IS HEAVIER THAN I REALIZED!

MAY I INTRODUCE MYSELF? MY NAME IS RAVALO!

SCIENCE FICTION...THAT'S THE NAME GIVEN TO STORIES OF THIS TYPE. BUT YOU'VE NEVER READ ANY JUST LIKE THIS ONE. HERE IT IS, ALL SET TO AMAZE, THRILL YOU--THE STRANGE TALE OF--

ONE THIEVING CROW!

STORY: ZEV ZIMMER
ART: PETE COSTANZA

OUR STORY STARTS WITH OSCAR MAURITIUS SECURING A JOB WORKING FOR HIS COUSIN, THE WEALTHY AND FAMOUS PROFESSOR BRAND--

WHAT'S HE GOT THAT I HAVEN'T... EXCEPT MONEY? IF I ONLY HAD IT, I'D BE AN EVEN GREATER SCIENTIST THAN HE IS!

THERE'S NOTHING HE WOULDN'T DO FOR THAT BRAT OF HIS--AND HE'S GOT THE WEALTH FOR IT, CONFOUND HIM.

I KNOW HOW YOU WORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE GIRL, BECAUSE OF YOUR HEALTH. MAYBE I'M TALKING OUT OF TURN, BUT I'VE COME TO LOVE HER. ONE THING YOU CAN DEPEND ON--AS LONG AS I LIVE, NO HARM WILL EVER COME TO HER!

COUSIN, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD THAT MAKES ME FEEL AND IF IT SHOULD EVER COME TO THAT, I'LL SEE YOU DON'T LOSE BY IT.

THINGS LIKE THIS PLACED OSCAR HIGH IN THE PROFESSOR'S CONFIDENCE--SO HIGH THAT HE DIDN'T HESITATE TO REVEAL HIS SCIENTIFIC SECRETS--

YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS MACHINE FOR A LONG TIME. I'M A BIT CURIOUS ABOUT ITS PURPOSE.

I'LL TELL YOU AND ONLY YOU, OSCAR. IT'S A **TRANSMUTATION MACHINE**--IT TRANSFORMS ONE SUBSTANCE INTO ANOTHER AND IT WORKS!

ON THAT TABLE IS A JAR OF ORDINARY WATER. ON THIS ONE, I PLACE A PRECIOUS BOTTLE OF RARE PERFUME--NOW **WATCH**, AS I START THE MACHINE IN MOTION!

THERE! ANOTHER BOTTLE OF RARE, EXPENSIVE PERFUME HAS BEEN CREATED IN PLACE OF THE VALUELESS JAR OF WATER! AND THE MACHINE WILL WORK WITH ANYTHING! ...CAN YOU PICTURE ITS POSSIBILITIES?



YES, OSCAR COULD PICTURE ITS POSSIBILITIES ONLY TOO WELL. SO MUCH SO THAT HE STOLE INTO THE LABORATORY THAT VERY NIGHT...

WHAT NEED HAS HE OF A DEVICE LIKE THIS, WITH ALL HIS WEALTH? I COULD MAKE MUCH BETTER USE OF IT, AND THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS IT. HA-HA...HE DOESN'T KNOW I'VE GOTTEN A LOOK AT HIS WILL...



BUT PROFESSOR BRAND KNEW NOTHING OF THE SABOTAGE WROUGHT ON HIS MACHINE. AND THE FIRST TIME HE TRIED TO USE IT AFTER THAT...



...AND I APPOINT OSCAR MAURITIUS, MY COUSIN, AS GUARDIAN OF MY CHILD, TO ADMINISTER HER FORTUNE UNTIL SHE REACHES THE AGE OF 18. MOREOVER, I BEQUEATH TO HIM PERSONALLY THE SUM OF \$50,000 AND APPOINT HIM AS DIRECTOR OF MY LABORATORY, TO CARRY ON MY WORK...



I KNEW EXACTLY HOW IT WOULD TURN OUT WHEN I LAID MY PLANS AND SABOTAGED THE MACHINE!

HIS FIRST TASK WAS TO REBUILD THE TRANSMUTATION MACHINE, WHICH HAD BEEN GREATLY DAMAGED BY ITS SHORT CIRCUITING...

THERE WAS MORE DAMAGE THAN I'D COUNTED ON. IT'S GOT TO BE REBUILT... AND I'M NOT SURE I CAN DO IT, CURSE THE LUCK...



HE HAD THE DEVICE MOVED TO THE PROFESSOR'S HOME, WHERE HE NOW LIVED WITH LAURA, HIS WARD. BUT HE WAS WITHOUT SUCCESS IN REBUILDING IT...

I'VE ALREADY USED UP THE \$50,000 I WAS LEFT. I'VE GOT TO GET MONEY FROM SOMEWHERE TO CONTINUE WORKING ON IT. HMMM... IT'S NOT FAIR THAT SHE SHOULD HAVE ALL THAT MONEY WAITING FOR HER...



NOW, AS TIME PASSED, HIS VISITS TO THE BANK GREW MORE FREQUENT...

NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW THAT I'M SPENDING HER MONEY ON THE MACHINE. WHEN I'VE SUCCEEDED WITH IT, I'LL MANAGE TO REPLACE THE CASH.



MONEY DRAINED FROM THE ESTATE--MORE MONEY AS THE YEARS PASSED AND SUCCESS STILL ELUDED HIM. HE GOT TO HATE HER FOR IT...

BUT I...I NEED CLOTHES--I HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING NEW FOR YEARS.

CLOTHES SO YOU CAN RUN AROUND WITH YOUR WORTHLESS FRIENDS, EH? WELL, I'LL SEE THAT YOU STAY AT HOME AND AWAY FROM THEM, YOU SPOILED BRAT.



SO POOR, LONELY LAURA WAS KEPT AT HOME. INSTEAD OF FRIENDS, THERE WAS ONLY A PET--A STRANGE PET, A CROW...

IT'S GOTTEN TO KNOW ME--AND LIKE ME, I THINK...



I DON'T KNOW WHAT KEEPS THAT BLACK DEVIL OF A BIRD HANGIN' AROUND, MR. MAURITIUS.

YOU'VE GOT A GUN, HAVEN'T YOU? WELL--I WANT YOU TO SHOOT THAT THIEVING THING, DO YOU HEAR ME? SHOOT IT!



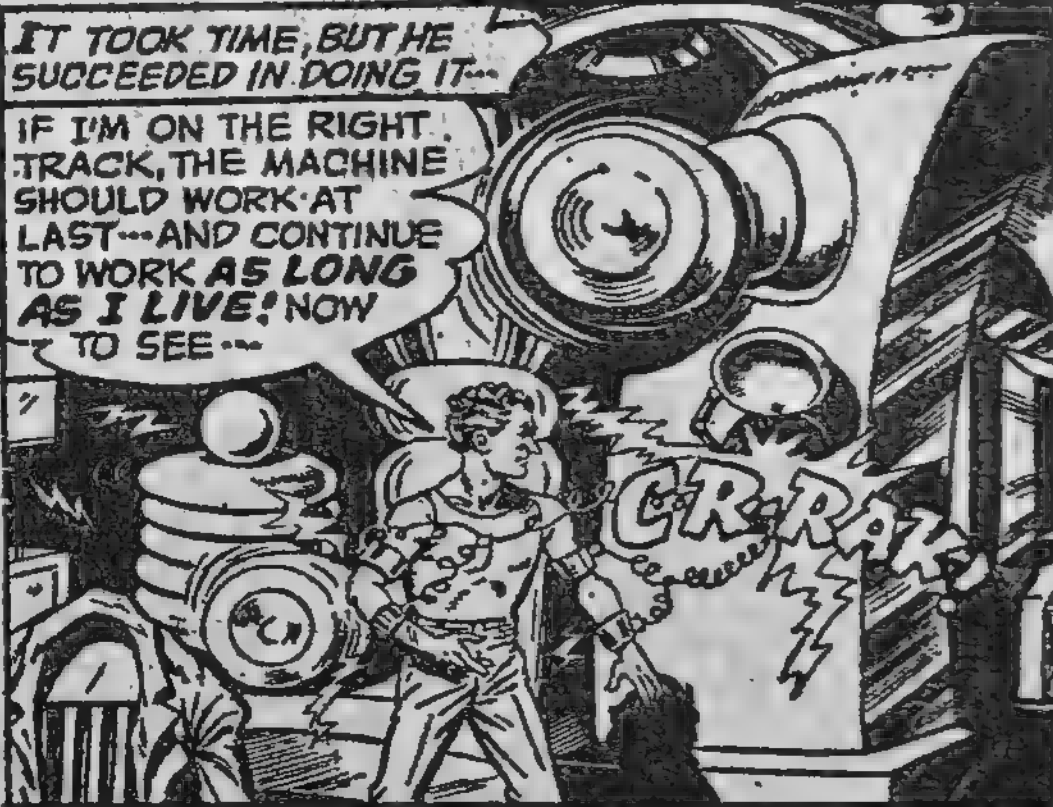
AND THEN--BACK TO HIS ENDLESS WORK ON THE TRANSMUTATION MACHINE. BUT NOW, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THERE WAS A RAY OF HOPE...

THESE OLD NOTES OF PROFESSOR BRAND'S INDICATE THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING HAS AN INDIVIDUAL VITAL LIFE ESSENCE. HE SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT SOMEHOW, HE MANAGED TO INCORPORATE HIS OWN INTO THE MACHINE. MAYBE THAT'S WHAT HAS BEEN MISSING!



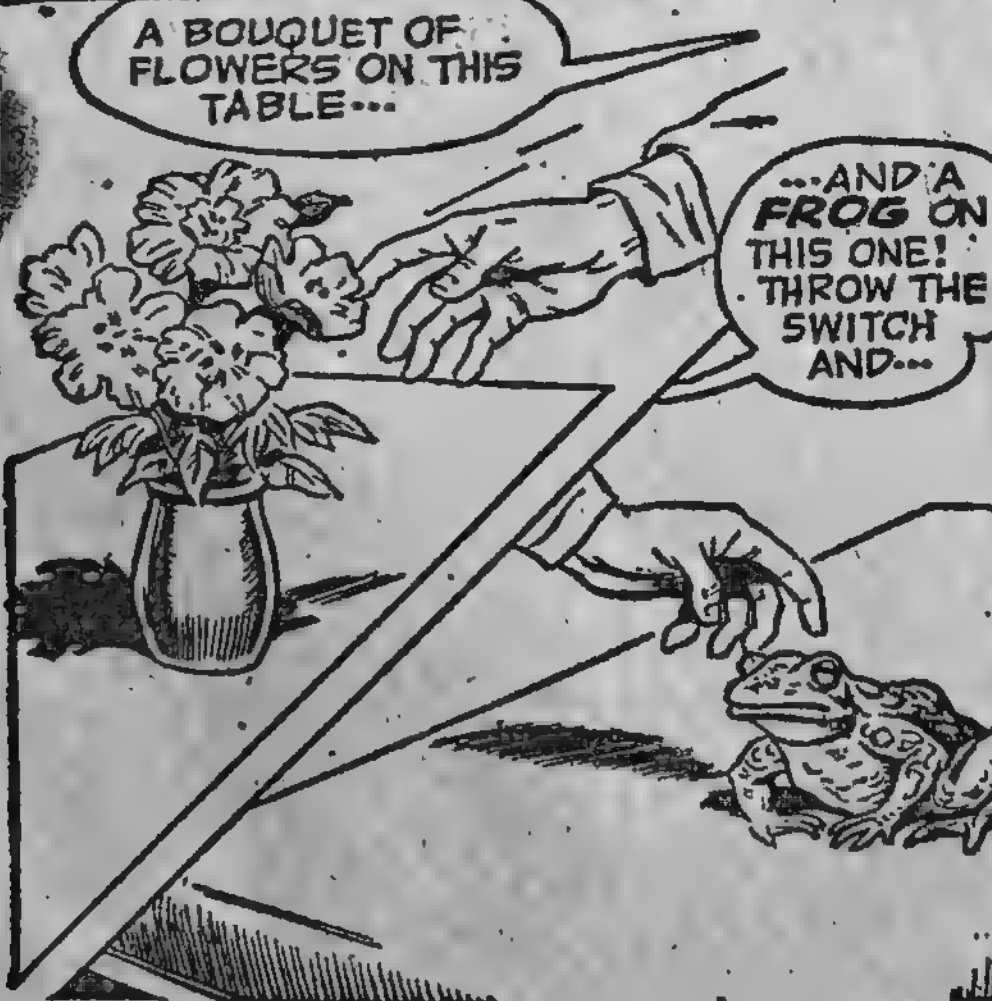
IT TOOK TIME, BUT HE SUCCEEDED IN DOING IT...

IF I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK, THE MACHINE SHOULD WORK AT LAST--AND CONTINUE TO WORK AS LONG AS I LIVE! NOW TO SEE...

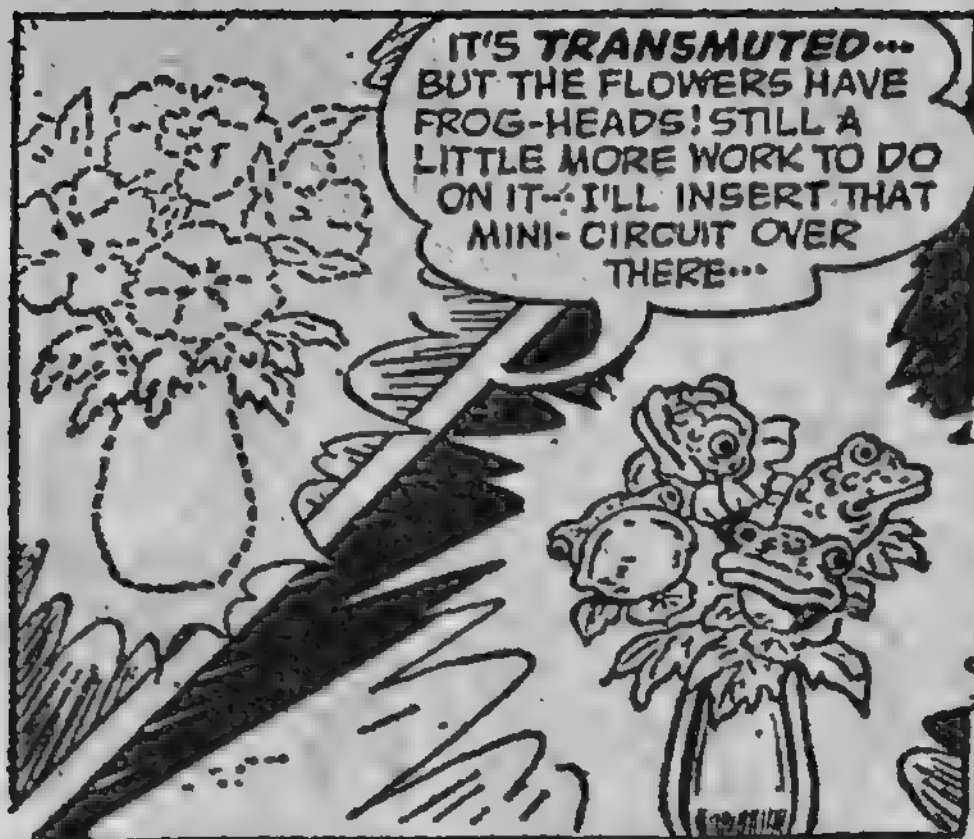


A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS ON THIS TABLE...

...AND A FROG ON THIS ONE! THROW THE SWITCH AND...



...THERE SHE GOES!



IT'S **TRANSMUTED**... BUT THE FLOWERS HAVE FROG-HEADS! STILL A LITTLE MORE WORK TO DO ON IT--I'LL INSERT THAT MINI-CIRCUIT OVER THERE...



THAT CROW AGAIN... **THAT THIEVING CROW!**

CAW!

BUT NOW OSCAR MAURITIUS WAS ON THE TRAIL OF SUCCESS, AND HE WOULDN'T BE SHAKEN OFF. JUST A FEW MORE ADJUSTMENTS--AND HE WAS READY FOR ANOTHER TRIAL...



THE CAT HERE...

AND THE DOG HERE! AND IF IT WORKS AS IT SHOULD, THIS DOG WILL TURN INTO THE CAT!

THERE SHE GOES--AND EVEN THE SOUND HAS CHANGED! IT'S SMOOTH, REGULAR--I THINK IT'S GOING TO **WORK** THIS TIME...



THE CAT'S... **DISAPPEARING**...

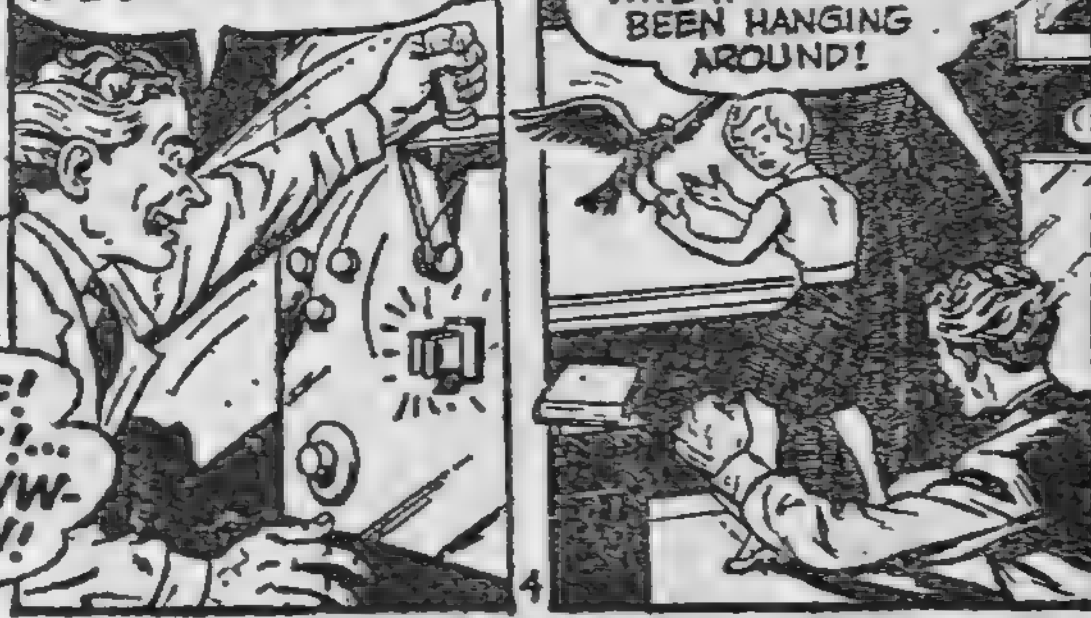
...AND THE DOG'S TURNING INTO THE CAT!

ARF! ARF!... MEEOWW-
WW!

I'VE GOT IT DOWN PAT NOW! AND THE MACHINE WILL FUNCTION CORRECTLY AS LONG AS I CONTINUE TO LIVE! WHATEVER IT CHANGES WILL **STAY** CHANGED--AND CAN ONLY REVERT TO ITS FORMER CONDITION IF I CEASE TO EXIST!

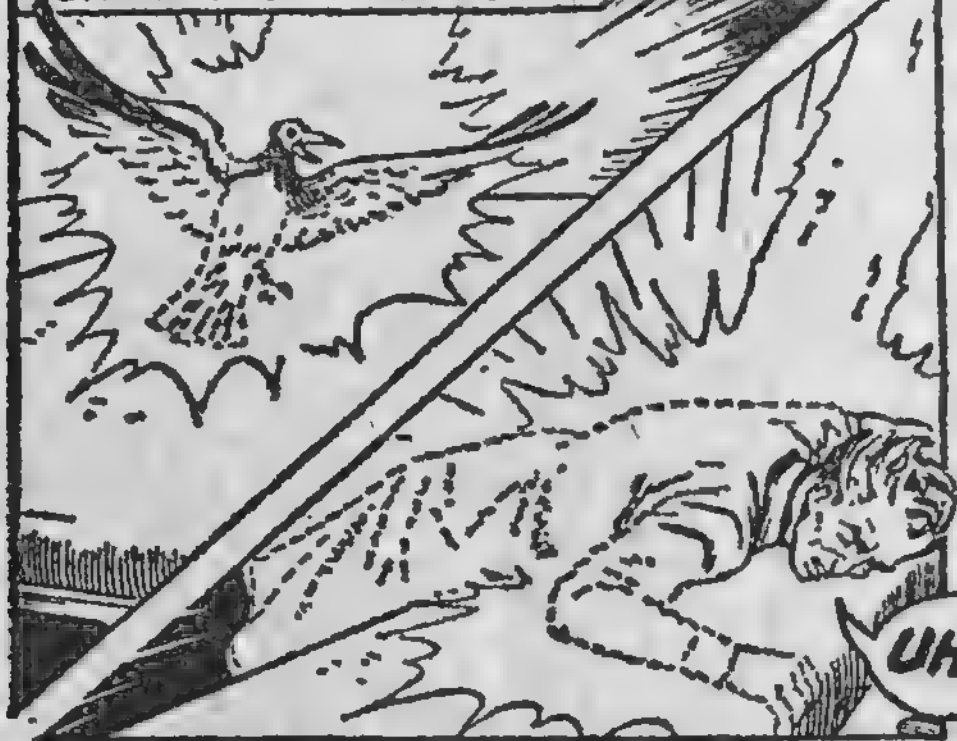
HE HAD TO TELL SOMEBODY ABOUT HIS SUCCESS, EVEN IF IT WERE ONLY LAURA. HE RUSHED INTO HER ROOM, ONLY TO FIND...

SO YOU'VE BEEN FEEDING THAT THING, MAKING A PET OUT OF IT! NO WONDER THAT THIEVING CROW HAS BEEN HANGING AROUND!



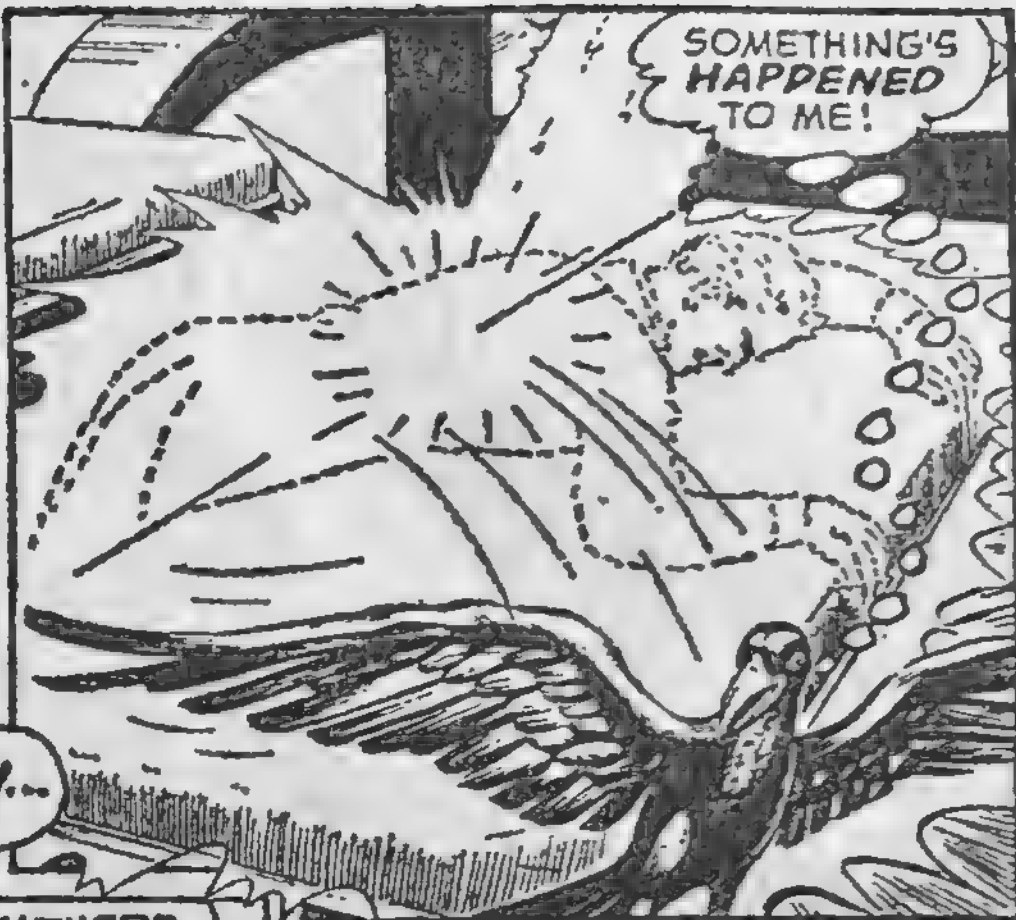


BUT THE TRANSMUTATION MACHINE WAS STILL IN OPERATION...HE HADN'T TURNED IT OFF! AND NOW...



UH...

SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO ME!



I...I'M CHANGED...DIFFERENT!...CAW! CAW!



WHAT LUCK! THERE HE IS...RIGHT IN MY SIGHTS!



BAM!

WHAT WAS IT THAT OSCAR MAURITIUS HAD SAID OF THE TRANSMUTATION MACHINE? "WHATEVER IT CHANGES WILL STAY CHANGED...AND CAN ONLY REVERT TO ITS FORMER CONDITION IF I CEASE TO LIVE!" NOW...WITHIN THE LABORATORY...



ARGH!

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE DADDY DIED...I FEEL FREE! COUSIN OSCAR...WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?



THESE SCATTER-GUNS SURE DO A JOB. I BLEW THAT THIEVING CROW TO PIECES, JUST LIKE MR. MAURITIUS ORDERED!



SHE DARED the UNKNOWN

THE UNKNOWN...A STRANGE
REALM BEYOND THE CON-
SCIOUSNESS OF NORMAL
MAN BEYOND LIFE ITSELF!
WHAT ARE ITS PERILS...
WHAT WEIRD SECRETS DOES
IT HOLD? HERE'S A STARTL-
ING STORY THAT TRIES
TO ANSWER THESE
QUESTIONS... WHEN
A MERE GIRL DARES THE
UNTOLD DANGERS OF THE
UNKNOWN!

21 AT THE ANCESTRAL DALTON HOME IN SALEM, MASS.

WHEN A HOUSE DATING
BACK TO 1683 IS GOING TO
BE TORN DOWN TO MAKE
ROOM FOR A NEW SUPER-
HIGHWAY THERE OUGHT TO
BE A STORY AIT! HOWS
ABOUT IT MR DALTON?

WELL, YOUR STORY SHOULD MENTION THAT EVEN NOW, WORKERS ARE BUSY DIGGING UP THE OLD FAMILY BURIAL PLOT AND MOVING THE CASKETS TO A CEMETERY! BUT WHY NOT LOOK AROUND **HERE** FIRST-- YOU **WILL** GET SOME **AMBITIOUS** **GOOD** LOCAL COLOR!

ANCESTORS MUH?
FUNNY HOW WE BUILD A
FALSE GLAMOR AROUND
THEM, JUST BECAUSE
THEY LIVED A LONG
TIME AGO!

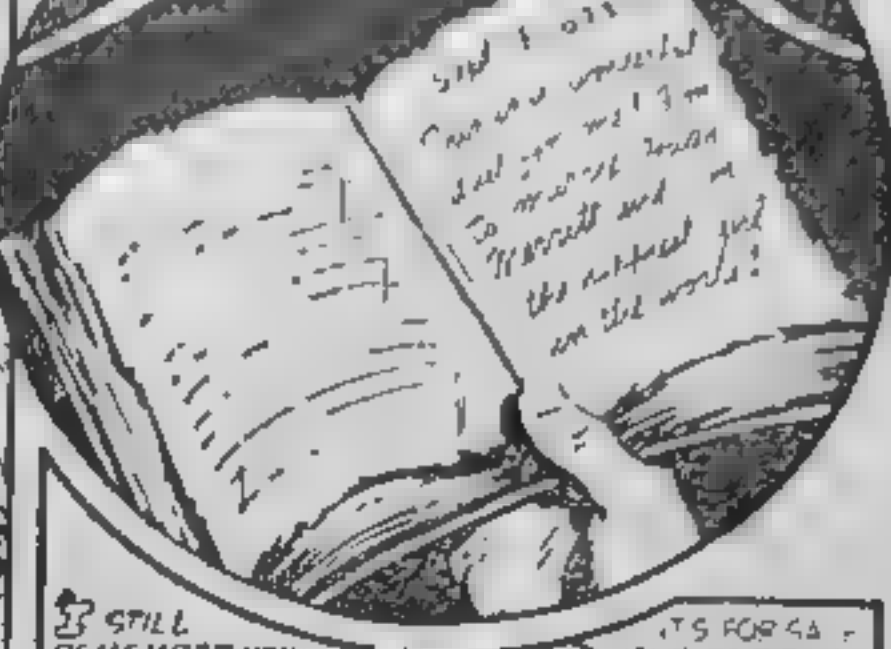
FALSE GLAMOR?
I DON'T KNOW --
LET'S TAKE THIS
ONE, FOR INSTANCE!

HHMM--ACCORDING TO THE TAG **SCARLETT DALTON**--AND SHE SAT FOR THIS PORTRAIT IN 1692! AND HER LIFE WAS PROBABLY AS DRAB AS ANYTHING THESE DAYS!

THINK SO? THAT BOOK SHE'S HOLDING IS HER **DIARY**--AND IT'S BEEN PASSED DOWN IN THE FAMILY THROUGH THE YEARS! SUPPOSE WE TAKE A LOOK AT IT--AND SEE HOW "DRAB" HER LIFE REALLY WAS!

SO WHAT? NOTHING EXCITING ABOUT THAT--AND I LIKE ANY MODERN TEENAGER TO ME!

READ ON! YOU'LL SEE THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO HER WAS--SHALL WE SAY--**DIFFERENT!**



IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT I, **SCARLETT DALTON**, COULD HAVE BEEN SO LUCKY!

IT IS A **BEAUTIFUL** ENGAGEMENT PRESENT, HUGH! BUT I WANT TO GET **YOU** SOMETHING, TOO!

YOU KNOW MY TASTES **SCARLETT** ANYTHING--AS LONG AS IT'S **OUT OF THE ORDINARY!**

BUT I'VE ALREADY SHOWN YOU EVERYTHING LIKELY, M' STRESS! NOW, THIS PISTOL--

I STILL REMEMBER HOW HARD I TRIED! FINALLY, IN A WHARF-SIDE CURIO SHOP--

BUT I WANT SOMETHING **DIFFERENT!** THAT LITTLE FIGURE UP THERE--LET ME LOOK AT IT!

THAT! NO, M' STRESS, NO NOT THAT!

IT'S FOR GAD--ISN'T IT? BRING IT OUT!



IT'S INCREDIBLY ANCIENT--AND THERE'S SOMETHING **STRANGE** ABOUT IT! AN OLD SAILOR SOLD IT TO ME--AND IF EVER I SAW **FEAR** IN A MAN'S EYES, IT WAS HIS! A PRETTY YOUNG GIRL LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T--

NONSENSE--THAT'S ALL SILLY **SUPERSTITION!** IT'S JUST WHAT I WANT--SOMETHING **DIFFERENT!**--AND I'M BUYING IT!

AND SO I TOOK THE FIGURE HOME, MEANING TO POLISH IT! BUT AS I HELD IT, A STRANGE FEELING GRIPPED ME--AN AWFUL FEAR! WHAT WAS THIS ODD PANIC CROWDING REALITY FROM MY MIND?

OH-HHH!





"THEN - THE UNBELIEVABLE HAPPENED! FROM THE FALLEN FIGURE THERE EMERGED A GIANT WRAITH-LIKE SHAPE FROM OUT OF THE UNKNOWN ITSELF! NO, NO - THIS COULDN'T BE TRUE!"

DO NOT FEAR ME CHILD! I MEAN YOU NO HARM!

MY TIME WAS IN THE DEAD PAST BUT AS EVIL LIVES ON SO CAN THE SPIRIT OF GOOD! I AM THAT SPIRIT AND THOSE OF GOOD HEART AND CLEAR CONSCIENCE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ME! INSTEAD I

CAN PROTECT THEM! GIVE THEM MYSTIC POWERS!



IT-IT'S ALL A DREAM A FIGMENT OF THE IMAGINATION! IT'S GOT TO BE!

YOU DOUBT THE EVIDENCE OF YOUR OWN SENSES? THEN COME WITH ME ON A JOURNEY INTO THE REALM OF THE UNDEAD! SEE THE CREATURES OF THIS LAND--AND KNOW THAT THEY ARE ALWAYS WITH YOU!



IT WAS A STRANGE AND TERRIFYING JOURNEY! I TREMBLED AS I WALKED WHERE MORTAL MAN HAD NEVER TROD--

THOSE "TREES" THEY SEEM LIVING--AND EVIL!

BRID YOUR COURAGE MY DAUGHTER! AHEAD LIE MORE FEARGOME SHAPES!



WHEN THEY CAME, FLITTING TOWARDS ME--THE NAMELESS CREATURES OF THE UNKNOWN!



"I FELT THEM PRESSING CLOSER--CLOSER! FRANTICALLY, I SCREAMED! BUT THEN--"

FEAR NOT CHILD! SEE HOW THEY COME NEAR--BUT NO NEARER! IT IS BECAUSE OF MY IMAGE THAT YOU HOLD IN YOUR HAND--AS LONG AS IT'S WITHIN YOUR GRASP, NEITHER MAN NOR THE UNKNOWN CAN HARM YOU!



I FELT AN ODD REASSURANCE THEN! THE WEIRD FLIGHT BACK INTO THE WORLD OF REALITY COULD FRIGHTEN ME NO FURTHER!

I HAVE SHOWN YOU MUCH! NEVER LET MY IMAGE LEAVE YOUR POSSESSION! IT WILL PROTECT YOU GIVE YOU **STRANGE POWERS!**



WOW! I TAKE IT ALL BACK! THERE'S NOTHING DREAM ABOUT THAT GIRL! WITH AN IMAGINATION LIKE THAT, IF I COULD CLEAN UP WRITING, FOR PAGES TODAY!

IMAGINATION IS JUST READ ON!



NEXT MORNING...

IT WAS ALL A DREAM! IT MUST HAVE BEEN!

THERE'S BIG NEWS! THOMAS DERRY HAS JUST RETURNED FROM ENGLAND AFTER 25 YEARS AND THEY'VE ARRESTED HIM FOR MURDERING GUY FLINT!

I REMEMBER! THEY'D BEEN ENEMIES AND AFTER DERRY SAILED, THEY FOUND FLINT MISSING! HE MUST HAVE FLED AND RETURNED NOW, THINKING IT WOULD BE FORGOTTEN! BUT NOW HE'LL HANG FOR HIS CRIME!

HANG! BUT...

MY MIND WAS IN A WHIRL AS STRANGE MEMORIES CROWDED IN ON ME - MEMORIES FROM A LIFE BEYOND MY OWN!

BUT IT ISN'T SO! FLINT WAS MURDERED BY INDIANS... I REMEMBER IT DISTINCTLY!

WHY? IT ALL HAPPENED YEARS BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, SCARLETT! YOU'RE LOOKING ODD! IS SOMETHING WRONG?

"CONFUSED, I RACED BACK TO MY ROOM, GRASPED THE STRANGE FIGURE..."

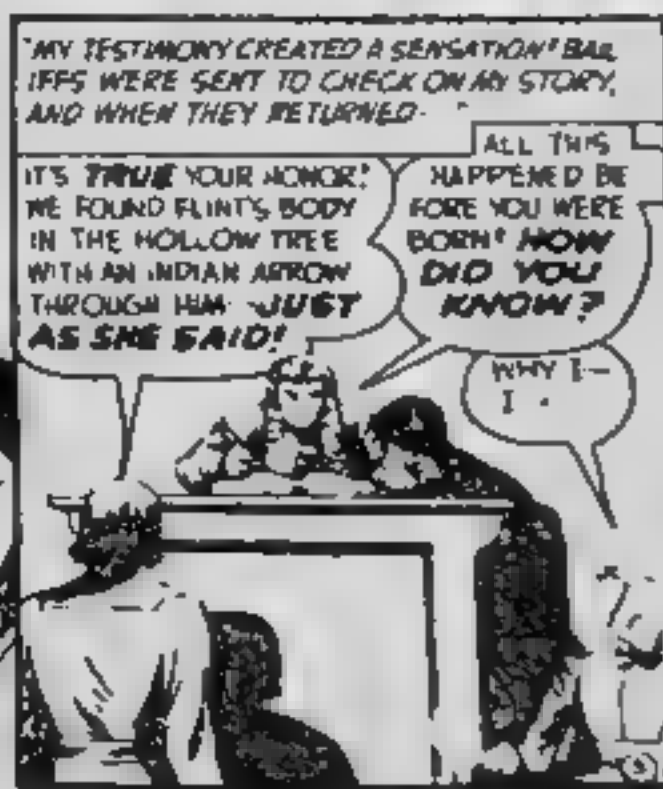
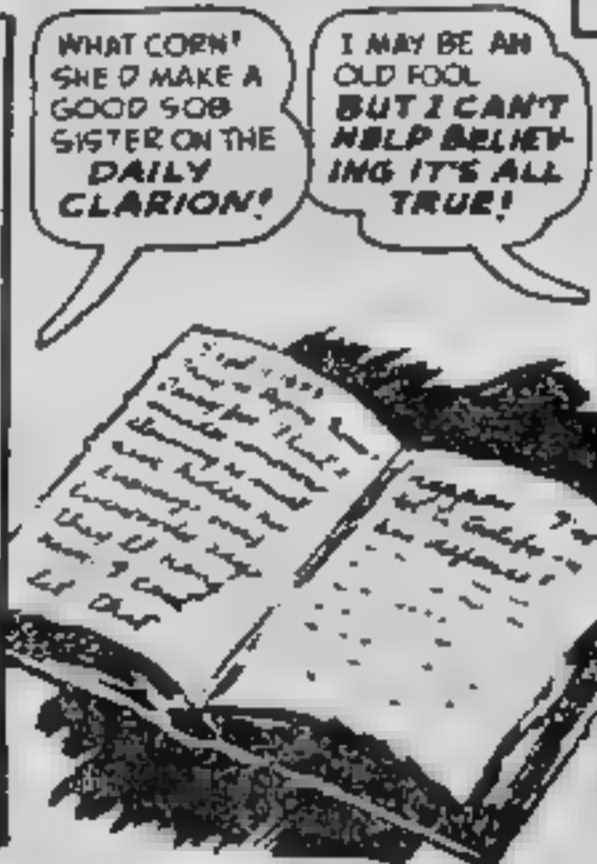
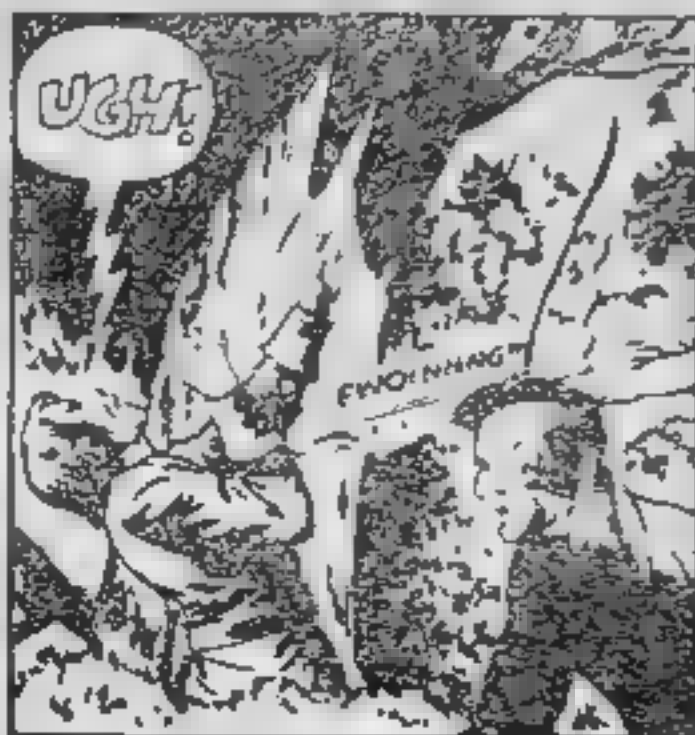
I SAID THOSE WORDS BECAUSE I SEEMED TO REMEMBER THAT IT HAPPENED THAT WAY! IT'S RIDICULOUS, UNLESS... UNLESS WHAT HAPPENED TO ME WASN'T A DREAM AND I DO HAVE STRANGE POWERS NOW!

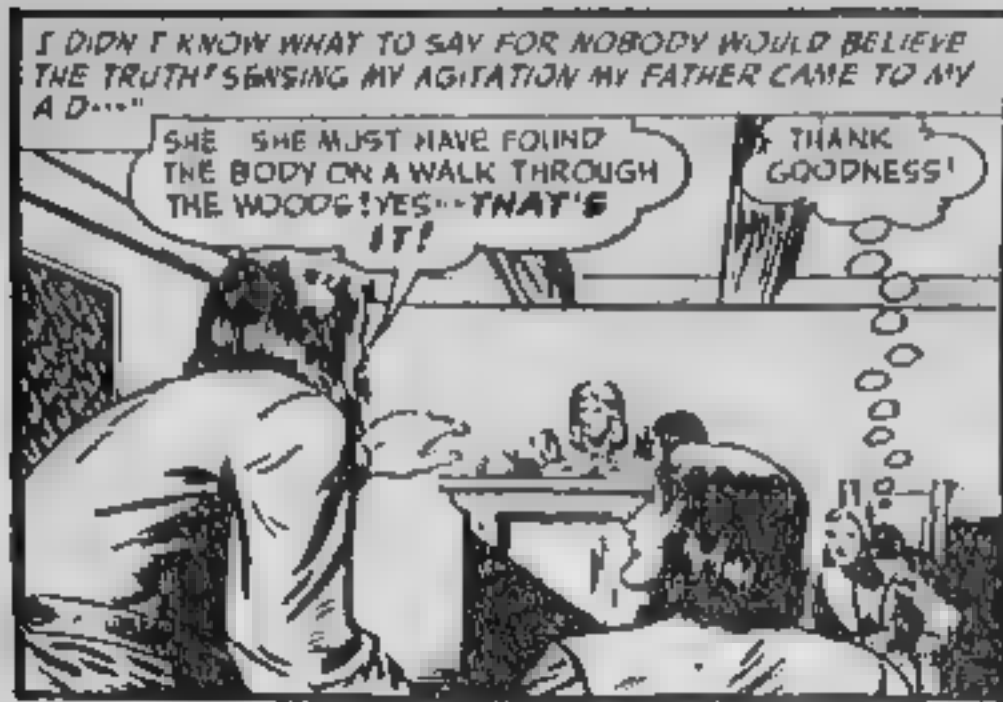


"THEN CAME AN ODD, DIZZYING SENSATION! I SEEMED TO BE FAINTING, THE ROOM SPINNING ABOUT ME..."



OH-NHHH...





I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY FOR NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE THE TRUTH! SENSING MY AGITATION MY FATHER CAME TO MY AID...

SHE SHE MUST HAVE FOUND THE BODY ON A WALK THROUGH THE WOODS! YES--THAT'S IT!

THANK GOODNESS!



T...IT'S COMING BACK AGAIN--THAT WEIRD SENSATION! I--I SEE A STRANGE CIVILIZATION--PEOPLE TRAVELING IN VEHICLES WHICH MOVE OF THEMSELVES WITHOUT HORSES--MACHINES THAT FLY THROUGH THE AIR--

NOW I KNOW YOU'RE JOKING! PROVE IT--HERE'S PAPER AND A PENCIL! DRAW ME THESE THINGS YOU CLAIM TO SEE!



LATER MY SECRET BECAME TOO MUCH FOR ME! I TRIED TO TELL HUGH--TO NO AVAIL!

AND I FELT THAT YOU THE MAN I LOVE SHOULD KNOW! THIS F GRIPE--IT'S GIVEN ME STRANGE POWERS! THE POWER TO REMEMBER THINGS I NEVER KNEW--

HA-HA! TRYING TO FOOL ME EM YOU LITTLE MINK? SUPPOSE YOU PRODUCE ONE OF THESE GREAT MEMORIES FOR ME!



HERE THEY ARE--THESE! THEY CAN'T BELONG TO THE PAST OR WE'D HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING ABOUT THEM! THEY--THEY MUST BE OUT OF THE FUTURE!

YOU'RE GETTING FUNNIER AND FUNNIER SCARLETT! I'M AFRAID I'D HAVE TO ACTUALLY SEE THESE THINGS TO BELIEVE 'EM!



I'M GOING TO MARRY YOU, HUGH--SO IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU NOT ONLY BELIEVE ME, BUT SHARE MY POWER! THIS IMAGE ENABLED ME TO GO BACK INTO THE PAST--MAYBE IT CAN TAKE ME INTO THE FUTURE TOO! TAKE MY HAND--AND HOLD ON TIGHTLY!



YOU IN WHOSE IMAGE THIS FIGURE IS CARVED TRANSPORT US TO THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE STRANGE DEVICES YOU HAVE REVEALED UNTO ME!

NOW, NOW, DEAR--STILL PLAYING GAMES?



THEN, WITH A ROAR LIKE A THOUSAND MADDENED BEASTS WE FOUND OURSELVES CAUGHT UP IN THE WILD VORTEX OF THE UNKNOWN!

"THE NEXT THING WE KNEW, WE WERE IN THE MIDST OF A WONDER-
LAND SUCH AS I'D NEVER DREAMED COULD EXIST!"

ON-HH! THIS IS
IT--THE LAND I
ENVISIONED!

MERCIFUL
HEAVENS! ALL
THIS--IT'S
SORCERY!

HAW--LOOK
AT THOSE
GETUPS!

IS IT AN
INITIATION
--OR ARE
THEY ADVER-
TISING
SOME-
THING?

LET'S--LET'S
GET AWAY FROM
THEM, HUGH!

THE NEXT MOMENT CAME CRIES FROM THE ON-
LOOKERS AS DEATH STARED US IN THE FACE!

LOOK
OUT!

HELP!
WE'LL BE
--KILLED!

I CALL ON
YOU, HELPER
OF UNKNOWN
POWERS!
SAVE
US!

DON'T YOU SEE, HUGH? AS
LONG AS I HAVE THE MONK'S
IMAGE, NOTHING CAN HARM
ME! AND IT'S SAVED
YOU, TOO!

I'M AFRAID,
SCARLETT--
AFRAID!
TAKE ME AWAY
FROM THIS
MAGIC!

SPIRIT, LET
US RETURN
TO OUR OWN
TIME!

ONCE
AGAIN WE DARED THE UNKNOWN
VORTEX AND SPANNED THE
CENTURIES! WE FOUND OUR-
SELVES ON FAMILIAR GROUNDS--

YOU CAN RELAX
NOW, DARLING!
WE'RE BACK
WHERE WE
BELONG!

GREAT
JEHOSEPHAT!

THEY--THEY
APPEARED OUT
OF THIN AIR!

IT WAS THEN THAT THE UNEXPECTED
HAPPENED, SHOCKING ME TO THE CORE
OF MY BEING!

WHAT? WHAT'S
THE MEANING
OF ALL THIS?

CAN'T YOU SEE,
YOU FOOLS? IT'S
NO FAULT OF MINE!
IT'S SCARLETT
DALTON--SHE'S
IN LEAGUE WITH
THE DEVIL!

OH HUGH! NO! NO!
YOU COULDN'T--



THIS IS THE FENDISH DEVICE SHE USES TO MARK HER EVIL! I'LL DESTROY IT! AND WITH IT, HER WICKED POWER!

DON'T! DON'T!



IT WAS AS HE LOST THE FATEFUL IMAGE INTO THE FIRE SOMETHING HAPPENED! SOMETHING STRANGE AND TERRIFYING!

HE WAS RIGHT! SHE'S IN LEAGUE WITH SATAN!

HELP!



NO! KEEP AWAY!



BOY, COULD THAT GAL DREAM EM UP! TOO BAD HOLLYWOOD COULDN'T GRAB HER! BUT THERE ARE NO MORE ENTRIES IN HER DIARY! IT BREAKS OFF THERE!

BEGGIN' YER PARDON MR DALTON...



WHILE WE WERE TRANSFERRING HER OLD FAMILY COFFIN TO THE TOWN PLOT ONE OF EM BROKE OPEN! IT BELONGED TO SOMEONE NAMED **SCARLETT DALTON** WHO DIED IN 1693! WE TRANSFERRED THE REMAINS BUT WE FOUND THIS IN THE COFFIN!

QUICK! LET ME SEE IT!



THOSE SAME DRAWINGS - TAKEN FROM THE GRAVE OF A WOMAN DEAD ALMOST THREE CENTURIES! WELL MR REPORTER - DO YOU BELIEVE NOW?

GREAT SCOTT! -- YES, MR. DALTON -- I BELIEVE --



I BELIEVE THAT **SCARLETT DARED THE UNKNOWN** - AND I BELIEVE THE EXPERIENCES SHE TELLS OF! BUT - BUT - BUT WHY DIDN'T THE DIARY CONTINUE?

THEY BURNED HER FOR A **WITCH** MAY GOD REST HER SOUL!

"AN ODE TO STOLEN ANTIQUES"

They should do something about those Sunday drivers," complained Al Norton of Special Squad to his buddy, Ben Egan. "It's getting to be the most important problem facing the country today. I took Uncle Joe and Aunt Edna out this past Sunday for a drive to Lake Michigan. Right in the middle of the highway a dame decides to make a left turn. Seems she forgot to turn the gas off under the soup and wanted to go back home. At least that's what they said after she smashed into three other cars. And the dope who ran out of gas and blocked the highway should be given a life sentence. At Clover turn we were making five miles an hour. Know what you see on the highways? First a billboard, then a stalled car, then another billboard and then another stalled car. There must be a solution to the problem of the Sunday driver!"

"There certainly is," replied Ben Egan with mock determination in his voice. "And very simple. It's a wonder the guys who make our laws never thought of it. Either abolish driving on Sunday or make Sunday drivers drive on Monday. I am at present against the idea of abolishing the car. I think it's here to stay for a while."

The phone rang and Al Norton answered it. No need to continue on the topic of Sunday drivers.

"Chief Edward Mirkus wants us in his office at once. Says he just got a telephone call about a ghost on the prowl. Come on! We can't keep the chief or the ghost waiting."

The police chief was proud of the two members of his Special Squad. They could handle anything from ordinary routine matters to the toughest assignment. The door to his office was open and they walked in.

"Is this a gag about a ghost, chief?" asked Norton. "I know anything can happen on the night shift. What's up?"

"Just got a telephone call from Professor George Niwenhouse. He's the biochemist who has helped the department from time to time. So at least we owe him this favor. Says he

saw a figure clad in white and then heard a lot of unfamiliar noises coming from an unoccupied house near his property. It's a studio building used by Frank Durham, a chemist and friend of the professor. Get out to 56 Sperling Road. That's right near the county line. The professor is trying to get in touch with Durham."

A fast half-hour drive through little traffic brought the detectives' car to its destination. It was a two story house and a man with a shotgun was awaiting them on the porch. The two detectives identified themselves and then the professor spoke.

"Mr. Durham is in my living room. I'll call him and then we will go over to his property. It's about 100 yards down the road. I am a very light sleeper. I heard noises and went to my window. I got a clear view of his place from my bedroom on the second floor. I saw this figure in white right next to the house."

The two detectives, accompanied by the two men, walked to the entrance of the house. It was a small two story affair.

"I use the place only as a studio," explained Mr. William Durham.

"When I have a tough problem on which to work, I drive out here to concentrate. I have a family of six kids, so working at home under those conditions isn't exactly conducive to good results. In addition, I have a lot of valuable antiques I keep in this place. One of my hobbies is writing articles for various antique magazines."

Mr. Durham inserted a key into the lock of the front door of his house. He fumbled around with it but got no results.

"Wrong key?" suggested Ben Egan.

"Right key," was the quick response. "The door is bolted from the inside. Somebody got in and out without using the door. Let's take a look around."

Detective Norton was about to ask just who was the detective but thought better of the idea. They went around the left side of the house. Ben Egan pointed to an open window

on the second floor and also to a large extension ladder on the ground.

"No mystery as to how it was done," commented Egan. "You fellows hold the ladder. I'll go up and then come down and open the front door."

Five minutes later the front door was opened and the other three men entered.

"What took you so long?" demanded Al Norton of his buddy. "You should have done that in three minutes flat."

"This place has some nice stuff in it," admitted Ben. "Like my wife always tells me to buy. Maybe someday when I hit the jackpot."

Mr. William Durham made a quick check of his valuables and then spoke.

"Mind you," said the chemist, "There may be more items missing. But at present, the thief took an old sailing ship model valued at \$500; four antique guns worth \$50.00 each; six decorative copper pans worth \$30.00 each; a hooked rug worth \$90.00; and five of my hand bound books, each worth \$45.00."

"You got the prices down pat," commented Detective Egan. "Switch on the porch light. I want to take a look around there. Then we'll give the grounds a good going over."

On the porch, the professor made the discovery. He picked up a leather bag which he handed to Detective Al Norton.

"Burglar tools?" asked the professor.

"Could be," replied the detective. "I'll take a look inside."

The discovery was a complete surprise. A costly Japanese camera with special lens and tripod. Worth, conservatively speaking, at least \$500.00.

"Doesn't belong to me," admitted Mr. Durham. "How did it get here?"

"The thief used the ladder and went upstairs. Brought out the items by the front door. Then bolted the front door and came down the ladder. He must have owned this camera and parked it on the porch. Forgot to take it with him. That's how it adds up," said Ben Egan.

"It's now 2.45 in the morning," pointed out Al Norton. "We turn out the lights. Leave the camera where we found it. And wait behind the bushes. The thief will come back for this camera if he's any kind of a camera fan."

The four men waited for almost an hour. Then a shadowy figure dressed in a white suit tiptoed up onto the porch and took the camera. The two detectives tailed him quietly and saw the man place the camera into a British sport car.

"Don't move or we'll shoot. We're detectives," shouted Ben Egan.

The man made a dive for his seat behind the wheel. Detective Al Norton fired one shot into the air.

"Please don't kill me," pleaded the man. "I will come quietly."

At the police station, the professor and the chemist were sitting on the side while the two detectives questioned the man.

"You will find a lot of antiques in my apartment," admitted the man who gave the name of Paul Westerly. "I drove back to my place with the beautiful things I took from that house. Then remembered I forgot the camera. It was very important. I hate taking pictures. But that camera was very important. Whenever I sized up a place, I wore it on my shoulder in the case. Made me look like a tourist. If anybody became suspicious I would make out I was taking a picture."

"Why did you steal all those antiques?" asked Detective Egan.

"Two simple reasons," replied the man. "First I am a poet. I have written a collection of poems. Turned down by thirty-five publishing companies. Shows you how low literary taste has fallen in this country. I was going to finance the publication of my book by the sale of these antiques. Second, I love nice things."

"You should see all the other things I have in my apartment. Alas, you upholders of the law caught me. Tell you what I will do. I will return everything I have stolen and you permit me to leave. Fair deal?"

"Everything you will return," said Detective Al Norton. "But you will only be permitted to leave after you serve a couple of years behind prison bars."

"Maybe there they will let you use the prison printing press to get out an edition of your book," suggested Detective Ben Egan.

The professor had to contribute his two cents' worth of advice.

"You might write an Ode to Stolen Antiques. You will have a lot of time on your hands."

— The End —

GIANTS of the UNKNOWN

GHILL AND MYSTERIOUS WERE THE GODS OF ANCIENT EGYPT... MIGHTY FIGURES OF WRATH TOWERING THROUGH THE MISTS OF TIME! WHAT DREAD LEGEND GAVE RISE TO SHAPES SO FEARFUL? WHY DO THEY STILL HAUNT THE DREAMS OF MEN? WERE THEY CREATURES OF MAN'S IMAGINATION... OR DID THEY ONCE, IN SOME LONG-FORGOTTEN AGE, ACTUALLY WALK THE EARTH? LET'S ROLL BACK THE VEILS OF THE UNKNOWN... AND SEE THE STRANGE ANSWER!

GET THIS! IT DISCLOSES THE LOCATION OF ~~THE UNKNOWN~~ TOMB - AND SAYS IT HOLDS THE BODY OF THE GREAT GOD WHO'S THE FATHER OF ALL EGYPTIAN DEITIES!

FORGET IT! PROBABLY A FAIRY TALE... JUST FOLK LORE!

NOPE - IT'S NOT A HOAX! IT DESCRIBES OTHER TOMBS WHICH HAVE SINCE BECOME FAMOUS - SO WHY SHOULD THIS ONE BE FALSE?

MAYBE THERE IS SOMETHING TO IT! BUT AN ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION IS EXPENSIVE BUSINESS.

HEY...I'VE GOT IT!
EDWARD CLINTON!
HE'S RICH, WITH AN EYE
FOR PUBLICITY. HE'S
ALREADY BACKED
SEVERAL EXPEDITIONS!
THIS SHOULD BE BIG
ENOUGH TO INTEREST
HIM!



AND SO CLINTON RECEIVES
A PROPOSITION!

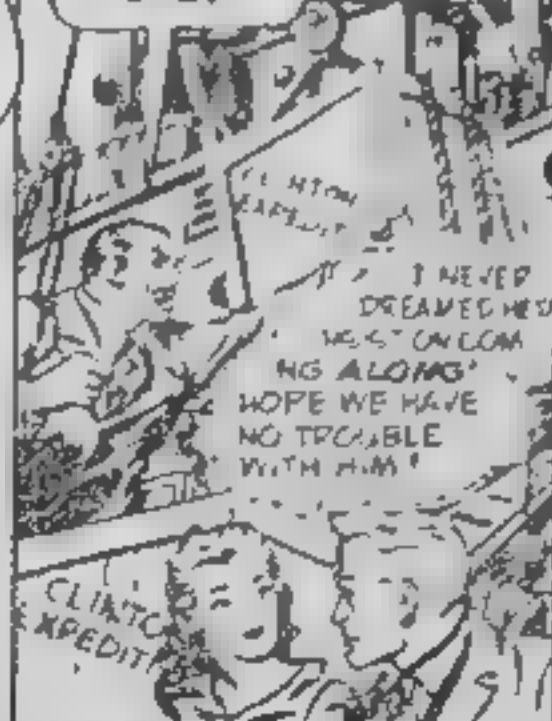
SO WHAT? I'VE
ALREADY BACKED
SEVERAL OF THESE
JUNKETS AND WHO
AMONG THE PUBLIC
EVEN KNOWS MY
NAME?

BUT THIS IS
BIG TIME STUFF!
THE GREAT GOD
WHOSE THE
FATHER OF
ALL EGYPTIAN
GODS - WHY,
ALONGS DE OF
HIM, TUT ANKHAMEN
WAS BUSH LEAGUE
MATERIAL! AND IF
THE CLINTON EXPEDIT
ION DUG HIM UP, YOUR
NAME WOULD BECOME
A BYWORD!



PUT THAT WAY, NOW COULD
CLINTON SAY NOT WITHIN
WEEKS, THE GREAT
EXPEDITION IS READIED

BE CAREFUL THERE!
THAT STUFF'S WORTH
MONEY!



-- AND PUTS TO SEA BOUND
FOR THE GREAT UNKNOWN
--AND FABULOUS, UNSENSED
ADVENTURES WHICH LOOM
AHEAD!



EGYPT
-- AND
OUT
ACROSS
THE
TRACK-
LESS
DESERT!

I--I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE
HERE! OH, PRAY THAT THE
MANUSCRIPT WAS TRUE,
TOM--PRAY!



MILE AFTER LONELY MILE--
THEN FINALLY, THE GOAL IS
REACHED! A BARREN SPOT,
SWEEP BY LONELY WINDS
THAT MOAN OF UNTOLD
DANGERS--OF ANCIENT
DEATH!

IS THIS--THE PLACE? HOPE
WE'LL FIND WHAT WE CAME
FOR BUT--IT'S KIND OF
SCARY, ISN'T IT? THE
WIND--THOSE STRANGE
DUNES--

WHOOO-OOO-OOO

TOM! I--I'M
F-FRIGHTENED!



AIEEEE! HEED THE WARNING OF THE GODS! THIS PLACE IS CURSED! IT IS THE HAUNT OF EVIL SPIRITS! TO INTRUDE IS DEATH!



TAKE THAT, YOU HYSTERICAL FOOL!... AND THE REST OF YOU-- STOP! I'LL SHOOT THE FIRST MAN WHO ATTEMPTS TO DESERT!

NO SHOOT! WE WE STAY!



NEXT DAY UNDER CLINTON'S GUNS DIGGING COMMENCES! AND OUT OF THE SHROUD OF BURYING SAND OF COUNTLESS YEARS--

EEE-YOW! WE'VE FOUND IT! WE'VE FOUND IT!



AND SOON

LOOK AT IT! THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS! C'MON LET'S BREAK IN--

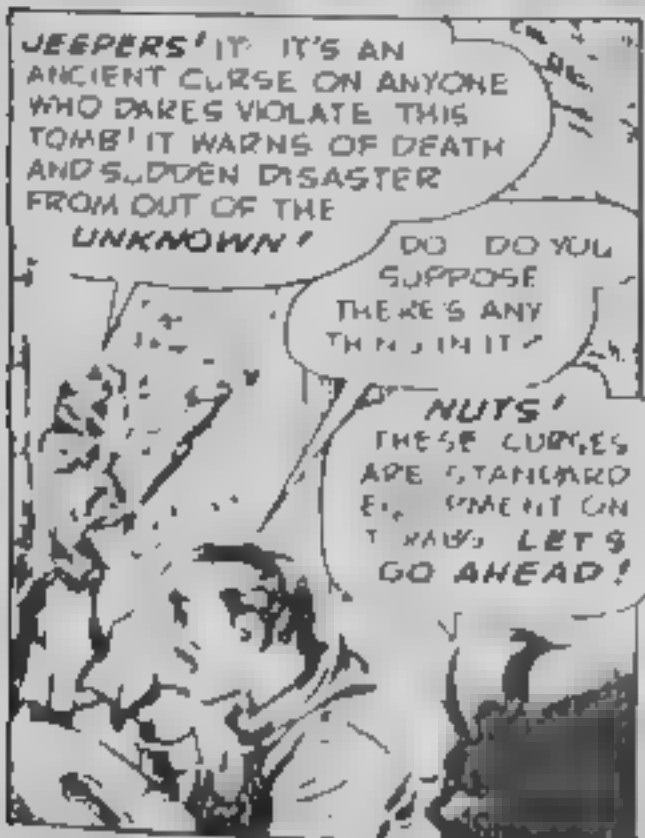
WAIT! THERE'S AN INSCRIPTION ON THE TOMB! LET'S SEE WHAT IT SAYS FIRST!



JEEPERS! IT'S AN ANCIENT CURSE ON ANYONE WHO DARES VIOLATE THIS TOMB! IT WARNS OF DEATH AND SUDDEN DISASTER FROM OUT OF THE UNKNOWN!

DO DO YOU SUPPOSE THERE'S ANY THING IN IT?

NUTS! THESE CURSES ARE STANDARD EQUIPMENT ON T R A V E L S. LET'S GO AHEAD!



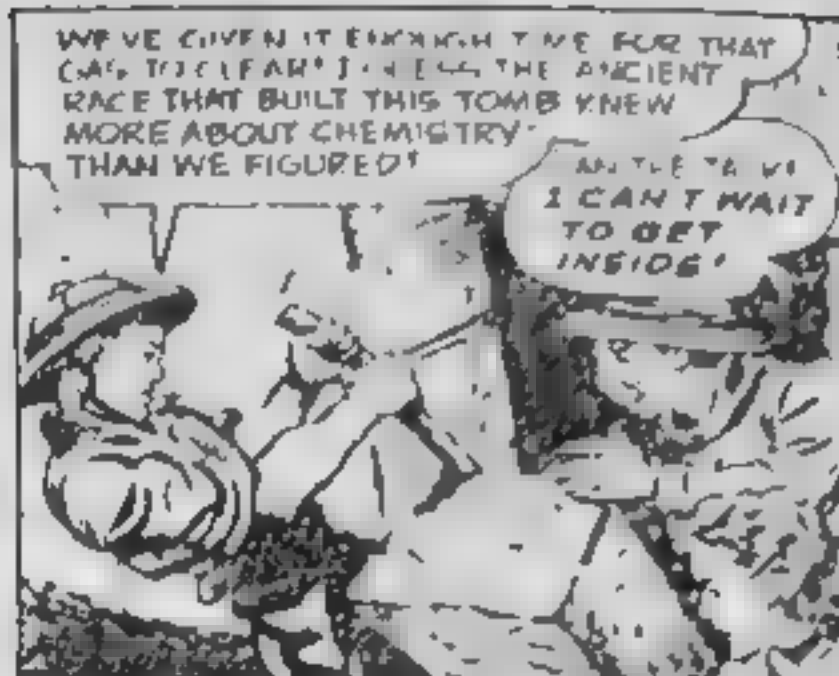
I'M THE LEADER OF THIS EXPEDITION-- I'LL GIVE THE ORDERS! YOU, OVER THERE! START BREAKING INTO THAT TOMB OR I'LL FINISH YOU RIGHT NOW!



AS THE FIRST STONE BLOCK IS REMOVED, REVEALING THE DARK INTERIOR

AN-HHHHHN!





THERE-- THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS IN HISTORY! I--I'VE GOT TO SEE WHAT'S UNDER THESE BANDAGES!

NO, CLINTON--DON'T! EXPOSE THAT FACE, AND IT WILL CRUMBLE INTO DUST!

BUT--BENEATH THE ANCIENT WRAPPINGS--

GREAT SCOTT--LOOK! YOU--YOU'D THINK HE WAS SLEEPING!

THE FACE IS PERFECT! SOME GREAT EMBALMING SECRET, I SUPPOSE--LOST WITH THE CENTURIES!

HOLY SMOKE--HIS EYES! THAT THING'S ALIVE!

OUT OF THE UNKNOWN, ENTOMBED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, YET THIS CREATURE LIVES!

WAIT! DO NOT FLEE--IT IS MY COMMAND!

THERE'S SOMETHING--HYPNOTIC ABOUT THAT TOMB-LIKE VOICE! I--CAN'T MOVE!

HUMAN? I CANNOT ANSWER THAT! ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT I AM EL-RAMO--THAT I COME FROM ANOTHER RACE NOW DEAD AND LONG VANISHED, WHICH LIVED HERE 50,000 YEARS AGO! BUT I HAVE A MESSAGE TO BRING TO YOU WHO HAVE COME AFTER US--A MESSAGE ACROSS THE AEONS! COME WITH ME--LET ME SHOW YOU!

YOU FEAR ME MORTALS? WHO HAVE RELEASED ME FROM THE PRISON WHERE I HAVE LAIN IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS?

WHO WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU COME TO BE HERE? ARE YOU HUMAN?

A SLAB
IN THE
FLOOR
SLIDES
ASIDE,
REVEALING
ANCIENT
STONE
STEPS
WHICH
SEEM
TO WIND
INTO THE
VERY
BOWELS
OF THE
EARTH!
IN A
CHAMBER
FAR
BELOW...

WHAT A PLACE!
AND THOSE STRANGE
WEAPONS...THEY LOOK
LIKE THE NIGHTMARE
OF A MAD SCIENTIST!

IN A WAY, THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE!
THE END-PRODUCTS OF A GREAT
PREHISTORIC CIVILIZATION WHICH
RAN RIOT AND DESTROYED ITSELF
LONG BEFORE THE BIRTH OF
HISTORY! LET ME TELL YOU
ABOUT THAT CIVILIZATION!



"IN THE BEGINNING, WE WERE
AS YOU WERE...SIMPLE CAVEMEN,
FACED WITH ALL OF THE PERILS
OF SAVAGE NATURE!"

AIEEE!



"THE
COUNTLESS
YEARS
WITNESSED
EVOLUTION!
AS TIME
WENT ON,
CERTAIN
OF THESE
CAVEMEN
ADAPTED
THEMSELVES
TO THEIR
ENVIRONMENT
BY BECOMING
LARGER,
STRONGER!
AND FINALLY--
A RACE OF
GIANTS
EMERGED!"

ARRRGH!



"GROWING INTELLECT KEPT
PACE WITH GIANT BODIES,
AND FINALLY A GREAT CIVILI-
ZATION WAS BUILT! BUT MY
RACE SPLIT INTO WARRING
FACTIONS, CREATED STRANGE
NEW BATTLE DEVICES..."

MANY
THOUSANDS
WILL DIE FROM
THIS DAY'S
WORK! IT
IS GOOD!



I PLEADED TO DEVOTE OUR SCIENCE TO PEACE,
NOT WAR...AND AS A PUNISHMENT, WAS WALLED
UP IN THIS TOMB! AND SINCE NO TRACE OF MY
RACE IS LEFT ON EARTH, WHAT I FEARED MUST
HAVE HAPPENED! OUR STRANGE WEAPONS RAN
RIOT, DESTROYING EVERY VESTIGE OF OUR
CIVILIZATION!



IF ALL THIS IS TRUE,
HOW COME THIS TOMB
SURVIVED...AND YOU
ALONG WITH IT?



SO YOU
ARE RELUC-
TANT TO
BELIEVE!
COME LET
ME PROVE
THE TRUTH
OF MY
WORDS!

THIS, TOO, WAS A PRODUCT OF OUR DEAD CIVILIZATION! IT MIRRORS THE PAST, SHOWS WHAT HAPPENED ON EARTH MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO! WATCH!

OUR CAUSE IS A GLORIOUS ONE! WE MUST ATTACK OUR ENEMIES, DESTROY THEM!

HURRAH!

HAIL EL-CLANI, OUR LEADER!

GOOD GOSH!

HOW DO WE KNOW THIS ISN'T SOME SCIENTIFIC TRICK? DON'T THINK WE BELIEVE EVERYTHING, JUST BECAUSE OF A PICTURE IN SOME FORTUNE-TELLER'S CRYSTAL!

THE CRYSTAL CAN PROJECT US BACK BODILY THROUGH TIME -- GIVE YOU FURTHER PROOF! AND SINCE THE LESSON I HAVE TO TEACH IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH WE'LL GO BACK TO THE PERIOD WHEN GIANTS STRODE THE EARTH!

YOU'LL SEE NOW... AND LEARN FOR YOURSELVES!

BACK, BACK, BACK--THROUGH THE SWIRLING MISTS OF TIME!

THEIR FINAL DESTINATION - THE UNKNOWN! A STRANGE, MYSTIC LAND WHICH NO LONGER EXISTS - A LAND BEYOND TIME, LIFE AND HUMANITY!

THIS IS MY LAND, MY TIME! AND IT IS TO THIS POINT THAT WE MUST COME WHEN YOU WISH TO RETURN TO YOUR CENTURY!

GOLLY! I - I NEVER DREAMED THAT ANYTHING LIKE THIS COULD EXIST!

HOW STRANGE EVERYTHING IS... AND FRIGHTENING!



Then...OUT OF THE WEIRD FOREST, AND INTO A NEW WONDERLAND! THIS TIME, EL-RANO'S CITY-- A NEW ADVENTURE INTO THE GREAT, UNKNOWN!







GREAT HEAVENS! YOU'VE MOVED THE CONTROLS TO ABOUT A YEAR LATER...AND THE GIANTS' ENEMIES ARE HAVING THEIR INNING!

SO THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE GIANTS HAVE VANISHED! WARFARE LIKE THAT WOULD END UP BY NOT ONLY DESTROYING EVERY LAST MEMBER OF THE RACE BUT WIPING OUT ALL TRACES OF THE R CIVILIZATION AS WELL!

LET THAT BE AN OBJECT LESSON FOR US! WE'RE LUCKY WE DON'T HAVE WEAPONS LIKE THOSE WHICH COULD SO EASILY FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS!



LOOK! IT'S THE MUMMY OF EL-RAND, LYING THERE AGAIN AS IF ALL THIS HAD NEVER TAKEN PLACE!

SURE! WHERE WE'VE BEEN AND WHAT WE'VE SEEN ALL TOOK PLACE THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO! APPARENTLY THE SENTENCE WAS CARRIED OUT AND HE NOW LIES THERE AS HE HAD BEEN PLACED! BUT WHERE'S CLINTON?

I STAYED DOWN THERE...TO GATHER THESE! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED POWER, FAME AND NOW THEY'RE MINE! WITH THESE WEAPONS, I CAN RULE THE WORLD! AND IF ANYBODY... EVEN ARMIES... TRY TO STOP ME, I'LL WIPE THEM OUT LIKE FLIES!



YOU - YOU'RE CRAZY! IF YOU DO THAT YOU'RE CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RACE TO THE SAME SENSELESS DESTRUCTION WHICH WIPED OUT THE GIANTS!

TRYING TO STAND IN MY WAY, ARE YOU YOU FOOL! THEN YOU'LL BE MY FIRST VICTIM!

I'LL STOP YOU IF IT'S THE LAST...

UGH!





THAT MIGHT
TO DO IT!



DOWN INTO THE PIT HURTLES CLINTON -
LAZARUS INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL! THERE
IS A SHEDDING TERRIBLE BURST OF FLAME
AS THE HOLE SCUTTERS AWAY



WHEN A STRANGE TREMOR SHAKES THE MIGHTY TOMB!
AMID AN UNWEARILY ROARING

CR-RUMP!

BETTY!
THE TOMB
IT'S
DISSOLVING!

AND
EL-RANO'S
MUMMY
...LOOK
AT IT!

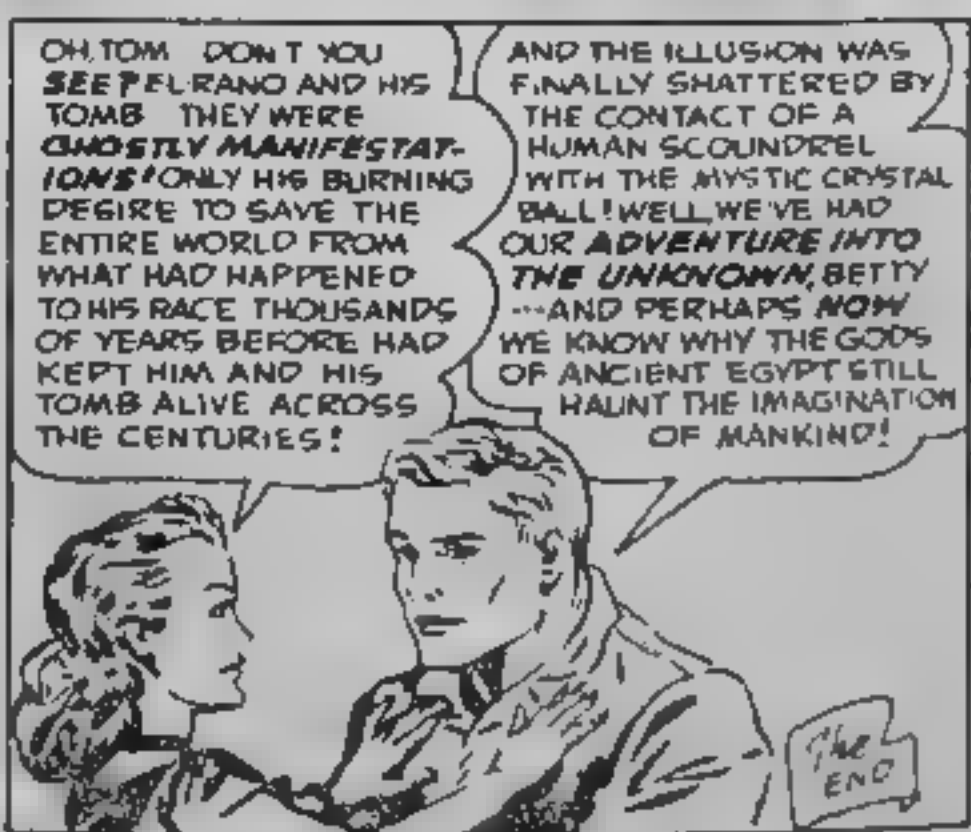
BLA-M!

RRR-RRAU



IT'S
DISAPPEARED,
TOM! THERE'S
ONLY EMPTINESS
LEFT!

BUT BUT I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!
WE WERE THERE
JUST A MOMENT
AGO WE SAW
EVERYTHING...
HOW'S IT POSSIBLE?



OH, TOM, DON'T YOU
SEE? EL-RANO AND HIS
TOMB THEY WERE
GHOSTLY MANIFESTATIONS!
ONLY HIS BURNING
DESIRE TO SAVE THE
ENTIRE WORLD FROM
WHAT HAD HAPPENED
TO HIS RACE THOUSANDS
OF YEARS BEFORE HAD
KEPT HIM AND HIS
TOMB ALIVE ACROSS
THE CENTURIES!

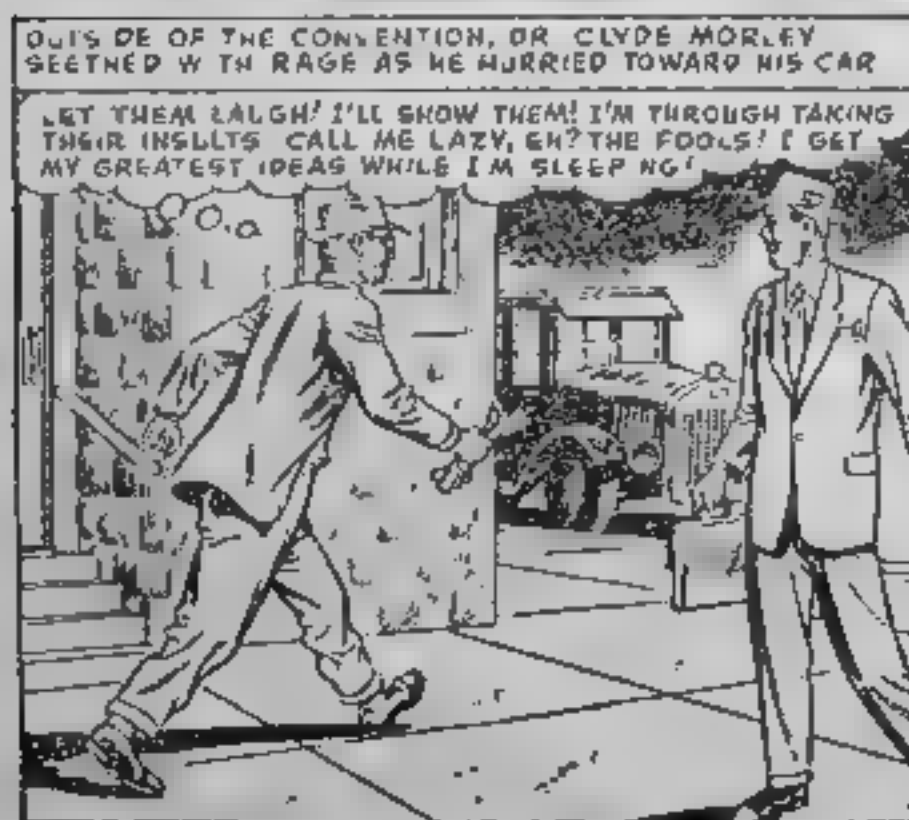
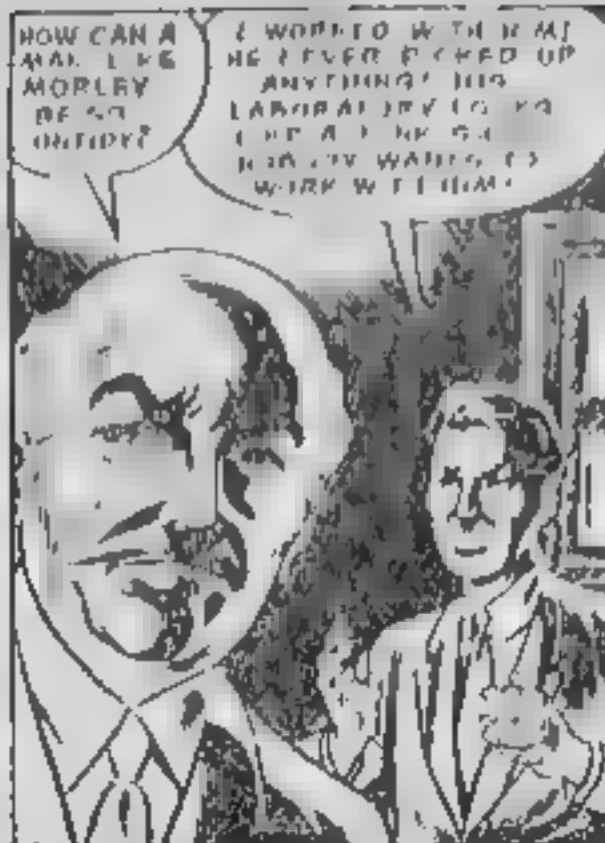
AND THE ILLUSION WAS
FINALLY SHATTERED BY
THE CONTACT OF A
HUMAN SCOUNDREL
WITH THE MYSTIC CRYSTAL
BALL! WELL, WE'VE HAD
OUR ADVENTURE INTO
THE UNKNOWN, BETTY
...AND PERHAPS NOW
WE KNOW WHY THE GODS
OF ANCIENT EGYPT STILL
HAUNT THE IMAGINATION
OF MANKIND!

THE
END

WHEN THEY LAUGHED AT THE BRILLIANT DR. CLYDE MORLEY, THE ASSEMBLY OF SCIENTISTS DIDN'T REALIZE THAT SOON THEIR VERY LIVES WOULD DEPEND UPON...

MOUSE *that saved the* WORLD!





MORLEY SPENT THE NEXT FEW DAYS PREPARING HIS EARTH CONTROLLER FOR THE GREAT MOMENT... AND THEN, WHEN ALL WAS READY...

NOW! LET THEM CALL ME LAZY AND UNTIDY! THEY'LL SING A DIFFERENT TUNE IN A FEW MINUTES!



THERE! I'VE DONE IT! THIS LITTLE INSTRUMENT WILL CONTROL THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FORCES AND BRING IT TO A STANDSTILL!



THE EARTH SLOWED AS IF IN THE GRIP OF A GIANT... AND THEN IT SLOWLY DECELERATED... AND STOPPED!



A PENNSYLVANIA FARMER NOICED IT FIRST..

SARA! SOMETHING'S FUNNY HERE... IT SHOULD BE DAWN! LOOK WHAT TIME IT IS! WHERE'S THE SUN?

THAT CLOCK'S NEVER BEEN WRONG! I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!



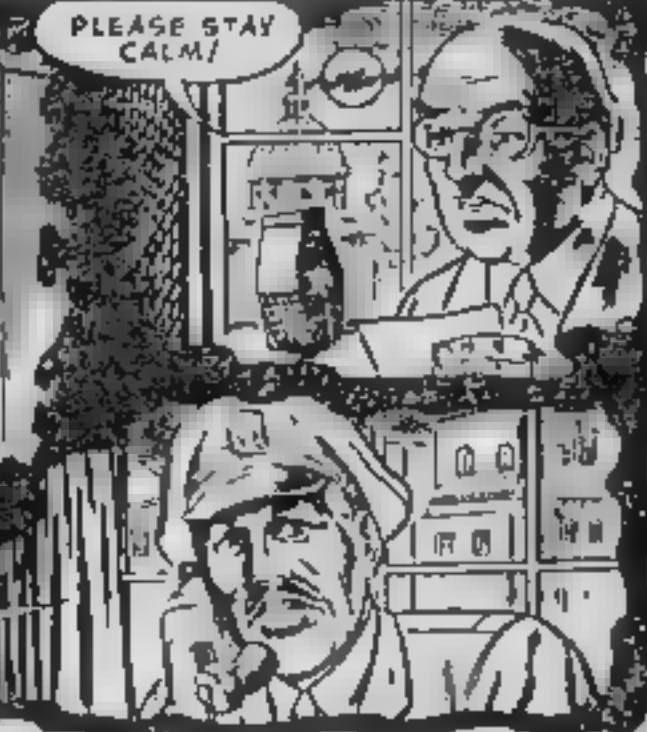
THEN THE PEOPLE IN THE CITIES BECAME ALARMED! ALL OVER THE WORLD, PEOPLE GREW TENSE..

WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE SUN IS!

PLEASE STAY CALM!



WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO FIND THE TROUBLE!



AND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD THAT FACED THE SUN, THE NIGHT NEVER CAME AND THE WEARY WORKERS WERE FILLED WITH DESPAIR..

IT'S MIDNIGHT! I CAN'T SLEEP WITH THE SUN STILL SHINING!

WHO IS TO BLAME? WHERE IS THE NIGHT?

STEADY! WE'LL KNOW IN DUE TIME! EASY DOES IT!



WITHIN A WEEK, THE EARTH WAS IN A TURMOIL. THE SUN HUNG UP IN THE SKY LIKE A BLAZING RED BALL, AND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF EARTH THE COLD HELD EVERYTHING IN ITS GRIP... AND THE SCIENTISTS WERE HELPLESS..

IT'S INCREDIBLE!

NEVERTHELESS MORLEY HAS DONE IT! WE'VE GOT TO SMASH THE EARTH CONTROLLER BUT FIRST WE'LL HAVE TO FIND IT!



THE SEARCH FOR THE EARTH-CONTROLLER SPREAD ALL OVER THE WORLD. IT HAD TO BE FOUND!



AND WHEN THE TENTH DAY OF MAY WAS FOUND, IT LIES IN AIN EGGLY THROUGH NEW YORK



MORLEY WAS BUSHED TO THE FARTO



ENDLESSLY, THEY QUESTIONED DR. MORLEY, UNTIL AT LAST HE SAT MUTE AND UNCOMPREHENDING...



THEN, IN THE HOUSE WHERE DR. MORLEY HAD ACTIVATED THE EARTH-CONTROLLER, A MOUSE SCURRIED FROM THE DEBRIS



IT SCAMPERED OVER THE MACHINE, NIBBLED AT A CABLE...AND DIED AS IT SHORT-CIRCUITED AND HALTED THE EARTH-CONTROLLER!



SLOWLY, THE EARTH STARTED TO TURN, AND IN WASHINGTON, A MAN GLANCED UP AT A WINDOW...

LIGHT! THE SUN IS COMING UP! THE EARTH IS TURNING AGAIN! I DON'T KNOW HOW...BUT SOMEHOW...SOMEONE HAS SAVED US!



THE END

IT WAS FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, AND THE SENTINEL'S CITY ROOM WAS DESERTED SAVE FOR ONE REPORTER HANK EVANS -- AND HE WAS SOUND ASLEEP! AND THEN SUDDENLY, WITH NO HUMAN FINGERS TOUCHING THEM -- THE KEYS ON HIS TYPEWRITER BEGAN TO MOVE TAPPING OUT THE WORDS OF A SENSATIONAL STORY! A STORY THAT WAS TO SHOCK THE ENTIRE COUNTRYSIDE AND SEND HANK ON THE WILDEST ASSIGNMENT OF HIS CAREER AS HE COLLABORATED WITH--

THE GHOST WRITER



EVANS! YOU IDIOT! WAKE UP!

HUH-- OH HELLO, CHIEF!

IF I HADN'T HEARD YOUR TYPEWRITER POUNDING A FEW MINUTES AGO AND COME UPSTAIRS TO SEE WHAT NEWS HAD BROKEN, I MIGHT NEVER HAVE SEEN THE STORY IN YOUR MACHINE -- AND WE'D HAVE MISSED GETTING IT IN THE EARLY EDITION! YOU PICK A FINE TIME TO SLEEP, EVANS!

WHAT STORY? I HAVEN'T TYPED A LINE ALL EVENING -- NOTHING IMPORTANT'S COME IN!

SO YOU DON'T CALL THIS IMPORTANT? CUT OUT THE JOKES!



IT WAS THEN THAT HANK SAW IT-- THE STRANGE STORY THAT WAS STILL WITHIN HIS TYPEWRITER--

HAROLD R. RANDOM FOUND DEAD Foul Play Suspected By Hank Evans.

The bullet torn body of wealthy Philanthropist Harold R. Random was found in Morton Park near the Fleet Rd intersection. A cavity at the base of a large oak tree had been opened, the body thrust inside and the hole re-closed. The hiding place was discovered through an anonymous tip.

Living alone and without servants Mr. Random was considered eccentric because of the Victorian clothes he wore. But his lavish cash donations to various charities won him love and respect.

Misfortune had recently dogged his foot- steps for only last week he was attacked by an unidentified assailant and his right arm broken...

GOOD GRAYV! I DIDN'T WRITE A WORD OF THIS! SOMEBODY MUST'VE GLIPPED IN AND DONE IT WHILE I WAS ASLEEP!-- HAROLD RANDOM DEAD! WHAT A STORY! I'D BETTER STALL THE CHIEF--



OH, THAT WELL, I GOT A HALF-BAKED TIP THAT RANDOM HAD BEEN KNOCKED OFF! I GOTTA CHECK ON IT YET, CHIEF! GUESS I SORTA DROPPED OFF WHILE I WAS MULLING IT OVER!

GET BUSY AND CHECK THEN! WHAT KIND OF REPORTER ARE YOU, ANYWAY?



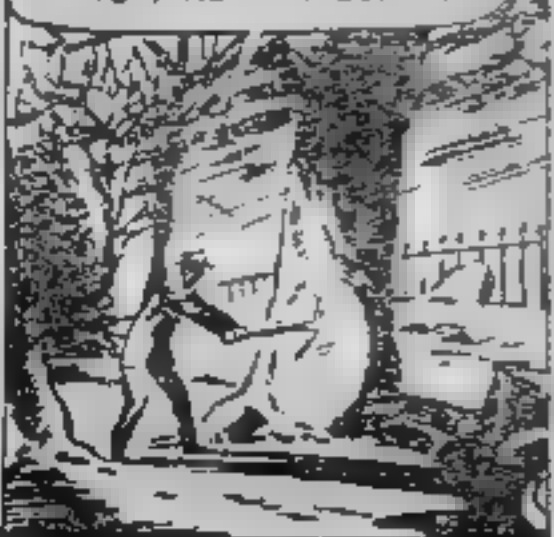
WHEN A PHONE CALL TO HAROLD RANDOM'S HOUSE BROUGHT NO ANSWER, HANK DETERMINED TO VISIT THE SUPPOSED HIDING-PLACE OF THE BODY!

PROBABLY SOME JOKER'S PULLING A GAG ON ME! BUT IT WON'T HURT TO HAVE A LOOK-SEE!



IT WAS ALL THERE-- THE OAK TREE WITH ITS SEALED OPENING--

BRR! THIS JOB GIVES ME THE CREEPS-- EVEN THOUGH I KNOW I'M NOT GOING TO FIND ANY CORPSE!



INSIDE THE TREE-- A CHILLING DISCOVERY!

GREAT GUNS! A DEAD MAN! I-- I CAN'T SEE HIS FACE TOO WELL, BUT IT MUST BE RANDOM! THAT OLD-FASHIONED COAT AND THE RIGHT ARM IN A SLING! WHEW... ME FOR A PHONE!



CHIEF! RUN THE STORY! ALL THE FACTS ARE TRUE! RANDOM IS DEAD! I'LL CALL THE POLICE--



YOU'RE SURE IT'S HAROLD RANDOM, EVANS?

YEAH! I'LL DRIVE AHEAD-- YOU FOLLOW ME!





THEY'RE GONE-- FUNNY, I'D HAVE SWORN THAT WAS RANDOM'S BODY. OF COURSE, I DIDN'T SEE HIS FACE TOO DISTINCTLY AND... WELL, I MUST'VE JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS BECAUSE OF THAT WRITE-UP! GOLLY, THERE'LL BE THE DICKENS TO PAY IF THAT YARN HITS THE STREET! I'LL HAVE TO CALL THE CHIEF, BUT FAST!



KILL THE RANDOM STORY? ARE YOU CRAZY? IT'S TOO LATE! THE PAPERS ARE OFF THE PRESSES AND ON THE STANDS ALREADY!



BACK IN TOWN-- EXTRAS ALL OVER THE STREETS! BROTHER, WHAT A MESS I'M IN!

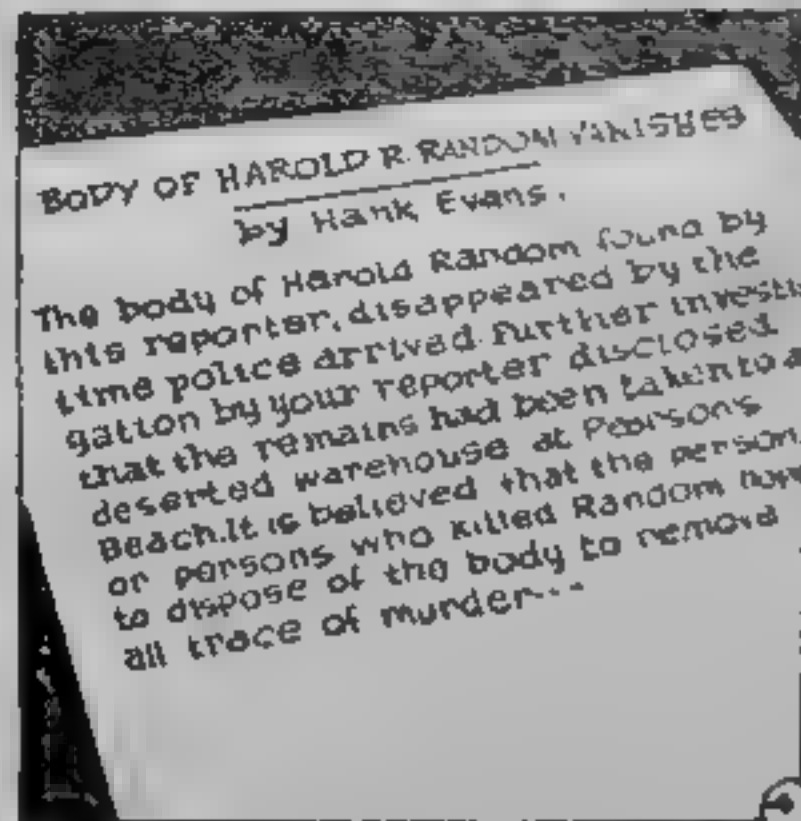


OH-OH! THERE'S MR. RANDOM-- GOING TO SEE THE CHIEF! HEKE COME THE FIREWORKS!



THIS IS THE YOUNG FOOL WHO WROTE THAT STORY, MR. RANDOM! YOUNG MAN, IF I DIDN'T OWN A BLOCK OF STOCK IN THIS NEWSPAPER, AND IF I WASN'T KINDLY DISPOSED TO MENTALLY-CRIPPLED PERSONS, I'D SUE YOU AND THE SENTINEL FOR MILLIONS! YOU'VE MADE ME THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE CITY!





I DUNNO WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT--
BUT ONE WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO
GO TO THAT WAREHOUSE AT
PEARSON'S BEACH!



THERE'S THAT NOSEY REPORTER--
NOW TO FOLLOW AND GET RID OF
HIM! I DON'T KNOW HOW HE
GOT WISE-- BUT HE KNOWS
TOO MUCH!



I'M IN A HURRY, BUDDY! FILL 'ER
UP-- I'LL CHECK THE TIRES!



A MOMENT LATER--

HONEST, MISTER, WELL,
I DON'T WRITE THAT ON
YOUR GLASS!

WELL, WHO IN
THUNDER
DID, THEN?



HMM-- WHOEVER WROTE THAT
MESSAGE KNEW WHAT HE WAS
TALKING ABOUT! THAT BIG
SEDAN SURE IS ON MY TRAIL!
I'D BETTER SHAKE IT!



DODGING THROUGH SIDE STREETS,
HANK MANAGED TO LOSE THE
CAR THAT WAS FOLLOWING HIM!
THEN, AS HE HEADED
FOR PEARSON'S BEACH--

WHO COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN I WAS
BEING TRAILED? AND HOW
DID HE MANAGE TO WRITE
THAT WARNING ON MY WIN-
DOW? THERE WAS NOBODY
AROUND EXCEPT THE
ATTENDANT!



AND WHO WROTE THOSE TWO
NEWS ACCOUNTS? THEY
PRAISED RANDOM SO HIGHLY
YOU'D ALMOST THINK THE
OLD GUY HAD DONE IT HIM-
SELF! GOOD GRAVY!
WHAT AM I SAYING?
IF RANDOM IS DEAD,
MAYBE HIS SPIRIT IS
DOING A GHOST-WRITING
JOB! AW, I CAN'T
SWALLOW THAT--
OR CAN I?



REACHING PEARSON'S BEACH HALL
CAUTIOUSLY APPROACHED THE
OLD WAREHOUSE--



"AFTERN' (AUGH) THERE
IS A BODY NO DP AND
IT'S IT'S RANDOM'S--
JUST AS THE WRITE UP
SAID! THEN WHO--
WHO WAS IN THE
SENTINEL'S OFFICE
THIS MORNING?



WE'D BETTER
WAIT TILL THE
BOSS SHOWS
UP BEFORE
HEAVIN' THE
OLD GUY
INTO THE
DRINK...
HE'S
LATE!

HE'S KEEPING
AN EYE ON
THAT REPORTER!
I'D SURE LIKE
TO KNOW HOW
THAT PUNK GOT
WISE TO WHERE
WE BURIED THE
STUFF IN THAT
TREE!



TOO BAD WE WEREN'T
CLOSE ENOUGH TO
SHOOT HIM WHEN HE
DUG IT OUT! I TOLD
THE BOSS IT WAS A
STUPID PLACE TO
PLANT RANDOM!

WELL, PUTTIN' THE SCARE-
CROW IN ITS PLACE FIXED
THAT! NOBODY'LL BELIEVE
WHAT THAT REPORTER SAYS
NOW-- AND IT'LL TAKE A
DIVER TO FIND THE BODY
THIS TIME WITH ALL THE
SCRAP METAL TIED TO IT!



SO RANDOM'S BODY WAS IN THAT
TREE ... OWWWWW!



YA MEAN YA
FOUND HIM
HERE, BOSS?

YES, LISTENING TO YOU TWO
BUMP YOUR GUMS! LOCK HIM
IN THE BACK ROOM, THEN
TOSS RANDOM IN THE BAY!
I WANT YOU TO GET R.O.O.F.
THAT BODY FOR GOOD!



A SHORT
TIME LATER--

WOW! MY HEAD FEELS
AS IF SOMEBODY
USED IT IN A
BOWLING
ALLEY!



THE DOOR'S LOCKED AND I COULD NEVER GET TO THAT WINDOW! IF IT WAS RANDOM'S GHOST WHO GOT ME INTO THIS, I SURE WISH HE WOULD GET ME OUT!



WHAT THE--THESE ARROWS WERENT HERE A MINUTE AGO-- AND THE PAINT'S STILL WET! AND THEY POINT TO BEHIND THAT PACKING CASE!



SHOVING THE PACKING CASE ASIDE, HANK DISCOVERED A LOOSE WALL BOARD! IT GAVE WAY UNDER THE PRESSURE OF HIS SHOULDER--

YE GODS, SOMETHING IS HELPING ME-- AND THAT SOMETHING MUST BE STRICTLY OUT OF THIS WORLD!



BUT, BOSS, HOW DO WE KNOW SOMEBODY ELSE BESIDES THAT REPORTER AIN'T WISE TO JS? MAYBE WE'D BETTER GIVE UP THE WHOLE IDEA!

AFTER ALL THOSE WEEKS I SPENT STUDYING OLD RANDOM SO I COULD IMPERSONATE HIM? NOTHING DOING!



DON'T WORRY! NOBODY SUSPECTS I'M NOT RANDOM, OR THAT THAT CHARITY WE SET UP IS A PHONY! AS SOON AS I GET ON THIS MAKE-UP, I'M HEAD-ING FOR TOWN TO CASH A BIG CHECK SO I CAN GIVE THE MONEY TO THE CHARITY! HA! HA!

YA THINK THE BANK'LL CASH THE CHECK OKAY, BOSS?



OF COURSE! WHY DO YOU THINK I WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF BREAKING RANDOM'S RIGHT ARM? THE BANK HAS NO RECORD OF HIS LEFT-HANDED WRITING!

WOTTA SCHEME! THEY MURDERED RANDOM-- AND NOW THEY'RE GOING TO DRAIN OFF HIS MONEY!

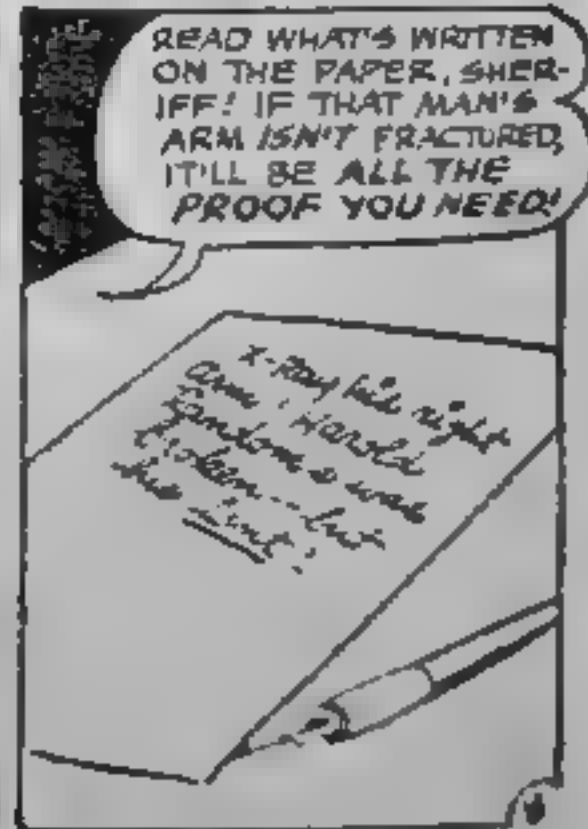


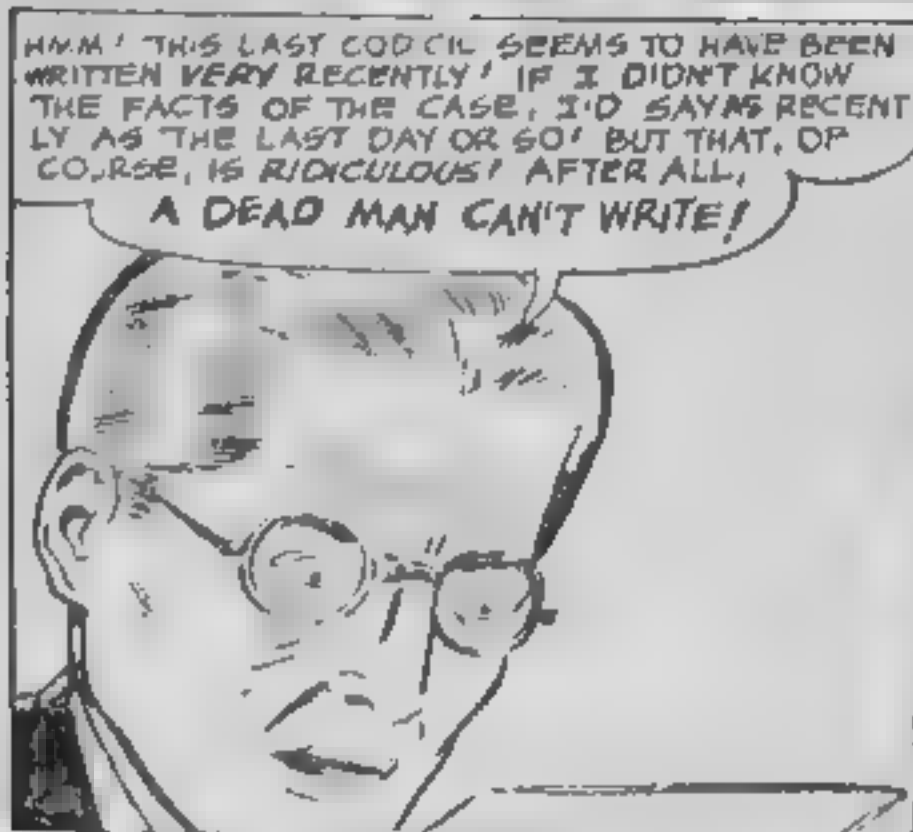
WHILE I'M GONE, YOU GUYS FINISH OFF THAT NOSEY REPORTER! DROP HIM IN THE BAY LIKE YOU D.D. RANDOM!



ON THE DOUBLE JOE! THE GUYS MAK'N A BREAK FOR IT!







The MAN WHO MET HIS OWN GHOST

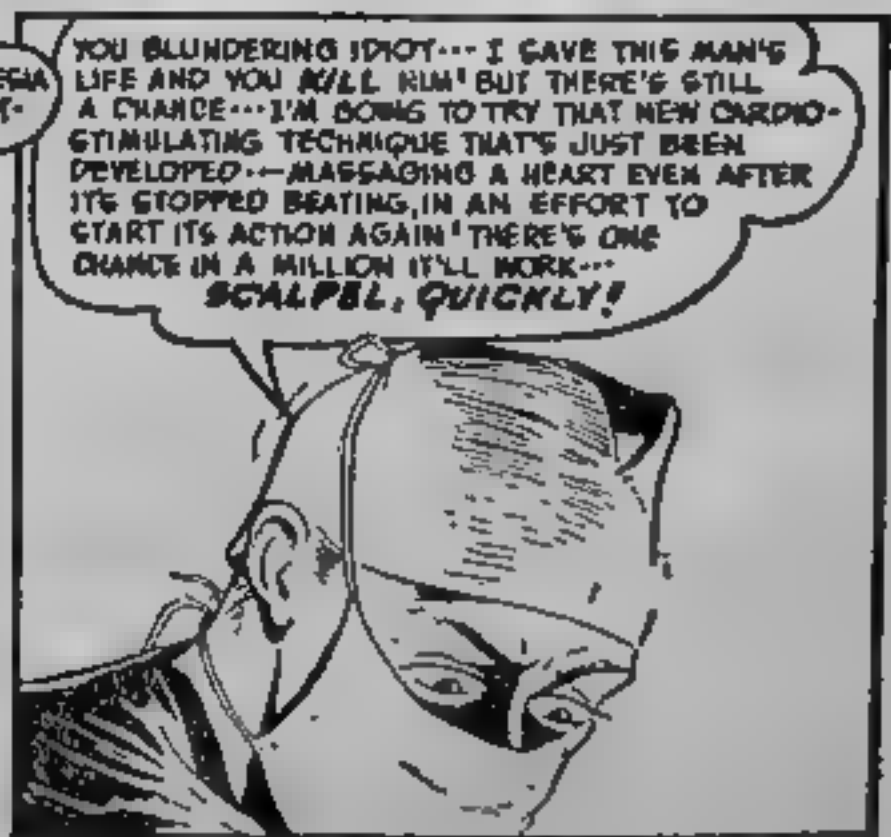


CAN A MAN HAVE MORE THAN ONE GHOST? CAN HE BE HAUNTED BY TWO SPECTRAL SHADOWS -- EACH A PREMONITION OF HIS OWN DEATH? YOU'LL FIND STRANGE AND CHILLING ANSWERS IN THE EERIEST, MOST UNUSUAL GHOST STORY YOU'VE EVER READ -- THE TALE OF THE MAN WHO MET HIS OWN GHOST!

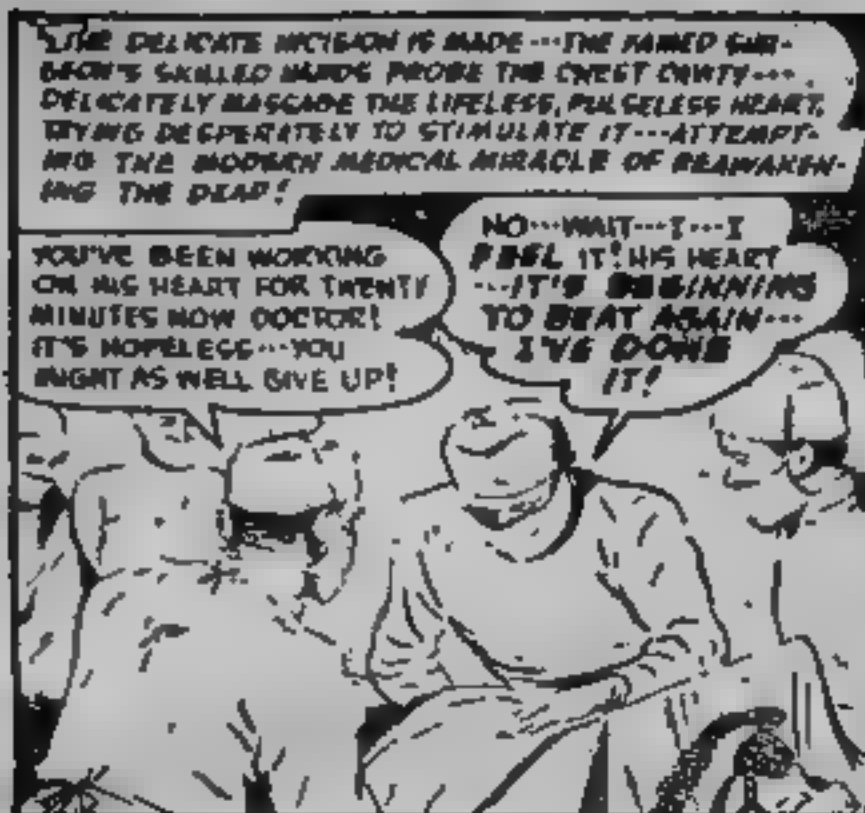


NASTY ACCIDENT THIS CHAP HAD -- IT'S A MIRACLE I PULLED HIM THROUGH! BUT HE'S ALL FIXED UP NOW --

DOCTOR, I... I'M AFRAID I GAVE HIM TOO MUCH ANESTHESIA -- HIS HEART'S STOPPED BEATING! HE -- HE'S DEAD!



YOU BLUNDERING IDIOT... I GAVE THIS MAN'S LIFE AND YOU KILL HIM! BUT THERE'S STILL A CHANCE... I'M GOING TO TRY THAT NEW CARDIO-STIMULATING TECHNIQUE THAT'S JUST BEEN DEVELOPED -- MASSAGING A HEART EVEN AFTER IT'S STOPPED BEATING, IN AN EFFORT TO START ITS ACTION AGAIN! THERE'S ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION IT'LL WORK...
SCALPEL, QUICKLY!





THAT'S ODD...THE LIGHTS DON'T WORK!

I'LL GO DOWN TO THE CELLAR AND CHECK THE FUSE BOX!



BE CAREFUL, DEAR. YOU'RE PROBABLY STILL WORRYING ON YOUR FEET AFTER ALL THOSE WEEKS IN THE HOSPITAL!

I'M FINALLY GAINING VERY GLADLY! OOPS!



PETER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

IT'S LUCKY I WAS GOING DOWN SLOWLY OR ELSE I'D HAVE BROKEN MY NECK! GET THE FLASHLIGHT FOR ME-- I WANT TO SEE WHAT I TRIPPED OVER!



A WIRE STRETCHED ACROSS THE STAIRS! WHO COULD HAVE GOTTEN INTO THE LOCKED HOUSE TO PUT IT THERE?

FIRST THE FALLING ON MNEY--AND NOW THIS! DARLING, I...I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT IT LOOKS AS IF SOMEONE WANTS ONE OR BOTH OF US KILLED... SOMEONE OR SOMETHING THAT CAME THROUGH FROM THE HOSPITAL IN A SPLIT SECOND AND GET INTO A LOCKED HOUSE WITHOUT LEAVING A TRACE! I'M GOING TO GET MY GUN AND MAKE A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE HOUSE!

WELL, I'LL BE---!

THAT EERIE GLOW...IT... IT'S A GHOST!

OF COURSE, I'M A GHOST-- BUT DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME, PETER? DON'T YOU KNOW YOUR OWN GHOST WHEN YOU SEE IT?



IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! I... I'VE HEARD OF PEOPLE SEEING GHOSTS, BUT I NEVER HEARD OF ANYONE MEETING HIS OWN GHOST BEFORE! BUT YOU--YOU DO LOOK EXACTLY LIKE ME--AND YOU'RE EVEN WEARING THE OPERATING GOWN I HAD ON WHEN I--I---

YES, SAY IT--WHEN YOU DIED! I'M THE SPIRIT THAT LEFT YOUR BODY WHEN YOU DIED ON THE OPERATING TABLE! I LOOK LIKE YOU BECAUSE EVERY SPIRIT MUST RESEMBLE EXACTLY THE BODY FROM WHICH IT FLED AT THE TIME OF DEATH!

BUT WHEN YOU WERE REVIVED FROM THE DEAD, CERTAIN EVIL POWERS IN THE NETHERWORLD IMMEDIATELY BEGAN PLOTTING TO KILL YOU--BECAUSE THEY FELT THEY HAD BEEN CHEATED OUT OF A BODY THAT WAS RIGHTLY THEIRS! THEY WERE THE ONES WHO LOOSENED THE CHIMNEY AND TIED THE WIRE ACROSS THE STAIRS--BUT AS SOON AS I SAW ALL THIS FROM THE VALLEY OF THE SHADES, I CAME TO HELP AND PROTECT YOU AGAINST THEIR EVIL DESIGNS!

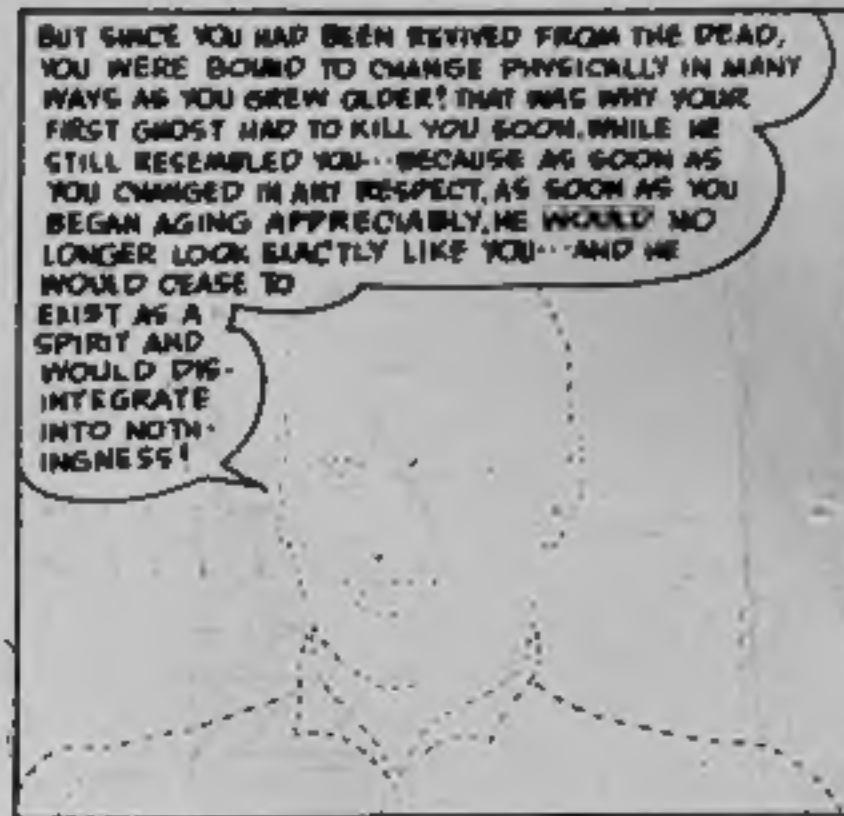




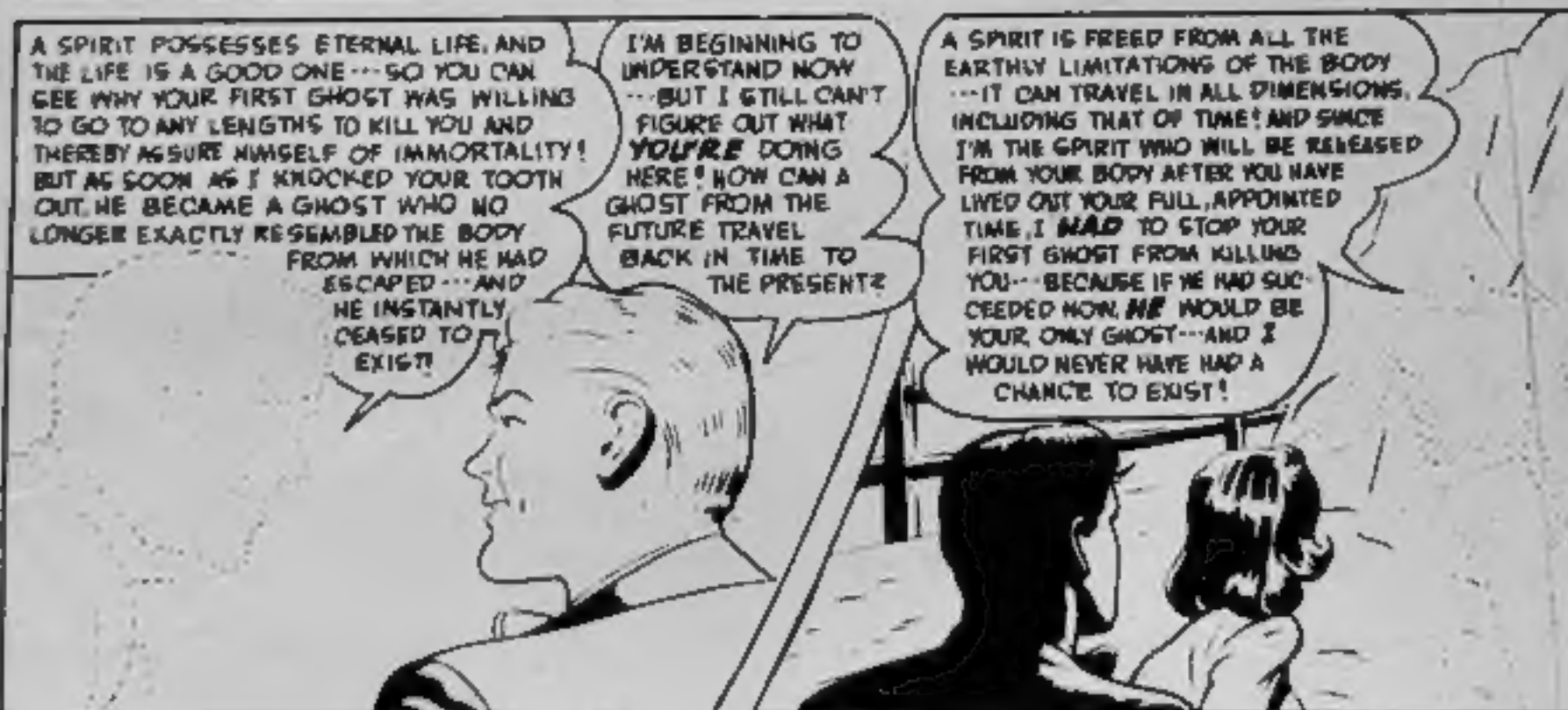


YOU'RE RIGHT...IT
DISAPPEARED! BUT
I DON'T UNDERSTAND
NOW...

IT'S REALLY QUITE SIMPLE IF YOU
KNOW THE LAWS OF THE SPIRIT
WORLD, PETER! YOU SEE, EVERY GHOST
MUST LOOK **EXACTLY** LIKE THE
BODY FROM WHICH IT ESCAPED AT
THE TIME OF DEATH...WHICH MEANS
THAT YOUR FIRST GHOST COULD
EXIST ONLY AS LONG AS HE
RESEMBLED YOU IN EVERY
PARTICULAR... ONLY AS
LONG AS YOUR PHYSICAL
APPEARANCE DIDN'T
CHANGE!



BUT SINCE YOU HAD BEEN REVIVED FROM THE DEAD,
YOU WERE BOUND TO CHANGE PHYSICALLY IN MANY
WAYS AS YOU GREW OLDER! THAT WAS WHY YOUR
FIRST GHOST HAD TO KILL YOU SOON, WHILE HE
STILL RESEMBLED YOU...BECAUSE AS SOON AS
YOU CHANGED IN ANY RESPECT, AS SOON AS YOU
BEGAN AGING APPRECIABLY, HE WOULD NO
LONGER LOOK EXACTLY LIKE YOU...AND HE
WOULD CEASE TO
EXIST AS A
SPIRIT AND
WOULD DIS-
INTEGRATE
INTO NOTH-
INGNESS!



A SPIRIT POSSESSES ETERNAL LIFE, AND
THE LIFE IS A GOOD ONE...SO YOU CAN
SEE WHY YOUR FIRST GHOST WAS WILLING
TO GO TO ANY LENGTHS TO KILL YOU AND
THEREBY ASSURE HIMSELF OF IMMORTALITY!
BUT AS SOON AS I KNOCKED YOUR TOOTH
OUT, HE BECAME A GHOST WHO NO
LONGER EXACTLY RESEMBLED THE BODY
FROM WHICH HE HAD
ESCAPED...AND
HE INSTANTLY
CEASED TO
EXIST!

I'M BEGINNING TO
UNDERSTAND NOW
...BUT I STILL CAN'T
FIGURE OUT WHAT
YOU'RE DOING
HERE! HOW CAN A
GHOST FROM THE
FUTURE TRAVEL
BACK IN TIME TO
THE PRESENT?

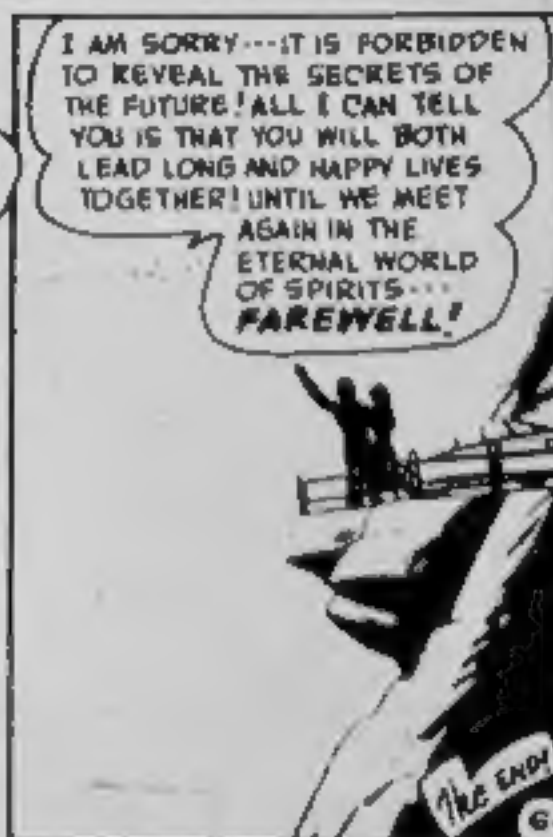
A SPIRIT IS FREED FROM ALL THE
EARTHLY LIMITATIONS OF THE BODY
...IT CAN TRAVEL IN ALL DIMENSIONS,
INCLUDING THAT OF TIME! AND SINCE
I'M THE SPIRIT WHO WILL BE RELEASED
FROM YOUR BODY AFTER YOU HAVE
LIVED OUT YOUR FULL, APPOINTED
TIME, I **HAD** TO STOP YOUR
FIRST GHOST FROM KILLING
YOU...BECAUSE IF HE HAD suc-
ceeded NOW, **HE** WOULD BE
YOUR ONLY GHOST...AND I
WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD A
CHANCE TO EXIST!



BUT NOW THAT MY DUTY TO
YOU IS DONE NOW THAT I
HAVE ASSURED MYSELF OF
MY OWN GHOSTLY EXISTENCE,
I MUST RETURN FROM
WHENCE I CAME!

NO...WAIT...AS A
GHOST FROM THE
FUTURE, YOU MUST
KNOW ALL THAT WILL
HAPPEN IN YEARS TO
COME! HOW! YOU TELL
US WHEN WE WILL DIE...
WHAT KIND OF WORLD
WE'LL BE LIVING
IN...?

YES...CAN'T YOU TELL
US WHETHER MAN
REACHED THE STARS...
WHETHER HE FINALLY
SUCCEEDED IN ABOLISHING
THE HORRORS OF WAR...?



I AM SORRY...IT IS FORBIDDEN
TO REVEAL THE SECRETS OF
THE FUTURE! ALL I CAN TELL
YOU IS THAT YOU WILL BOTH
LEAD LONG AND HAPPY LIVES
TOGETHER! UNTIL WE MEET
AGAIN IN THE
ETERNAL WORLD
OF SPIRITS...
FAREWELL!

THE END
6

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